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East Asia

FBIS-EAS-90-088
Monday
7 May 1990

Daily Report
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Japan

Cabinet-Level Council Planned With U.S.

OW0705140490 Tokyo KYODO in English 1335 GMT 7 May 90

[Text] Tokyo, May 7 KYODO—Japan and the United States plan to set up a cabinet-level council to deepen political and defense dialogue between the two countries to mark the 30th anniversary of the 1960 Japan-U.S. Security Treaty, Japanese Government sources said Monday. The foreign minister and the Defense Agency director general will represent the Japanese side and the secretaries of state and defense will represent the U.S. side in the proposed organization, the sources said.

The two countries will formally agree to the formation of the council at a meeting between Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker slated for early June. The first meeting of the council will be held within this year, they said.

Government sources said the membership of the panel may not be limited to cabinet ministers. Their principal deputies may also be enlisted in case the principals are not available to attend the meetings. The council is based on Article 4 of the Security Treaty—which provides that the two signatory states will consult with each other from time to time—and meetings of the council will be held when required, government sources said.

The council is expected to discuss cooperation between the two countries on global issues such as the problem of Third World debt and the global environment as well as burden sharing and Japan's defense buildup program.

A Pentagon report released in April said the U.S. will expand political and defense dialogue with Japan and revitalize procedures for consultations over the security treaty. Government sources said the idea of setting up a cabinet-level channel for consultations between the two allies originated from Tokyo.

Deputy Foreign Minister Hisashi Owada took the idea to Washington in January and got the go-ahead from the American side.

U.S. President George Bush alluded to the proposed council in his meeting with Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu last March at Palm Springs, California, when he talked about setting up a framework of consultation with Japan to discuss the global environment, drugs, international terrorism and other global issues.

Ban on Rice Imports Reportedly To Continue

OW0505104890 Tokyo KYODO in English 0705 GMT 5 May 90

[Text] Tokyo, May 5 KYODO—A report compiled by the U.S. International Trade Commission (ITC) shows that if Japan scraps its ban on rice imports and levies import tariffs instead, tariff rates on the imports would be as high as 620-733 percent initially, government sources said Saturday.

The sources said the ITC has calculated the tariff rates as part of the report on so-called "tariffication" of all nontariff barriers. The report will be presented to negotiating parties at ongoing agricultural talks among representatives of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) in Geneva, they said.

The United States proposed that all current nontariff barriers in agricultural trade should be calculated in terms of tariffs in the first year of liberalization and that tariff rates should be lowered to zero or near zero within ten years. It also said that a certain number of items subject to high tariff rates should have their rates significantly reduced or eliminated even from the first year of liberalized imports.

The U.S. is maintaining its stand that imposition of tariffs calculated in accordance with nontariff barriers will be needed in liberalization of agricultural trade. The U.S. is expected to press Japan to agree to introduce high tariff rates and liberalize rice imports, the sources said.

The ITC estimate is based on differences in rice prices in the U.S. and Japan in the three years between 1986 and 1988. California rice in 1988 cost 31 cents per kilogram including freight charges to Japan, compared with Japan's government-controlled rice price of 2 dollars and 35 cents per kilogram. The difference of 2 dollars and 4 cents would be equal to some 700 percent in import duties on California rice if imported to Japan.

The ITC report also estimated that if the U.S. imposed similar tarrifs under the terms of GATT, it would be able to impose import duties of 102 percent on raw sugar, 55-90 percent on peanuts and some 6 percent on skimmed milk.

The sources said Japan will maintain its stand that the import ban on rice is vital to securing a supply of Japan's staple food and that the rice trade should be excluded from agricultural liberalization talks.

Editorial Hails Troop Cut Plans in Okinawa

OW0405120690 Naha RYUKYU SHIMPO in Japanese 20 Apr 90 Morning Edition p 5

[Editorial: "Plans to Cut U.S. Forces in Okinawa Welcomed—Expections on U.S. Department of Defense Strategic Report"]

[Text] In the past, the cut in the U.S. Marine Corps in Okinawa has been reported in speculative articles citing remarks by ranking U.S. military officers and information supplied by U.S. Department of Defense sources. However, the cut has surfaced as something realistic.

The contents of a report entitled "The Strategic Framework for the Asian and Pacific Region in the 21st

Century," which has been submitted by Defense Secretary Cheney to the U.S. Congress, were carried in the 19 April edition [of this paper]. According to the report, the cuts will be made in three phases. Under the first phase, covering the next three years, the report calls for cuts of between 14,000 and 15,000, out of 135,000, troops stationed in Japan, South Korea, and the Philippines. In Okinawa, from 5,000 to 6,000 military personnel of mainly ground forces and air support units is reportedly to be reduced. At a time when all the conservative and reformist people are speaking out for scaling back or closing military bases in Okinawa from the standpoint of utilizing closed base land for the development of various industries, including the tourist industry, the plans, if carried out, will be a step forward and can be viewed as a desirable change.

On the other hand, however, U.S. forces in Japan temporarily introduced an air training corridor in airspace around Okinawa last August to conduct unprecedentedly large-scale training, and this has been disclosed at a Diet session. This is a military training aimed at heightening tension, while reducing troops in Japan. Although the United States is said to be planning to reduce troops because of defense budget constraints, there is another reason for the reduction.

There is no doubt that the United States plans to frame a new strategic and defense system in the Asian and Pacific region with 1990 as a turning point.

Will Reduction be Accelerated?

The plans to cut the Marine Corps, a main U.S. force in Okinawa, deserve a welcome. According to reports, U.S. ground forces in Okinawa will be scaled down. The U.S. ground forces in Okinawa are composed of mainly the Marine Corps and a small number of Green Beret soldiers. At present, about 36,000 U.S. troops are stationed in Okinawa. By service, the Marine Corps has 23,000, the Air Force 10,000, the Navy 2,000, and the Army 1,000. The Marine Corps accounts for two-thirds of U.S. forces in Okinawa and from 5,000 to 6,000 military personnel cut under the plans accounts for a quarter of the U.S. forces in Okinawa. Since a major cut is expected to take place in the Marine Corps, a main U.S. force in Okinawa, the return, realignment, and merger of military bases is believed to be accelerated.

It can be said that the reduction plans are good news, in view of damage inflicted by the bases. Live-firing training by the U.S. Marine Corps at Camp Hansen (in Kincho) and Camp Schwab have caused stray-bullet incidents, endangering the lives of residents living near training areas. Governor Nishime has visited the United States twice to ask the U.S. Defense Department to discontinue the live-firing training at Camp Hansen. The 19 April report submitted to the U.S. Congress does not refer to names of specific units to be pulled out. Since the troops of the U.S. Marine Corps are stationed mainly in the above two camps and Camp Foster, the troop cut plans can be viewed as a first step toward ending training-caused damage.

According to an information source, the 12th Marines at Camp Hansen will be pulled out of Okinawa at an early date, and there is a view that its howitzers will be also withdrawn from Okinawa. The regiment is a unit which has conducted live-round training across Prefectural Highway 104. The opposition to the live-firing, which is called "The Kisenbaru Struggle," has been a symbol of antiwar struggle in Okinawa. If the troop cut plans are carried out, the struggle can be viewed as a success.

On the other hand, any cut in the 3d Marine Expeditionary Force (MEF) deployed in Okinawa deserves attention from the viewpoint of military strategy and defense. The U.S. Marine Corps is deployed on the east and west coasts of the United States and in Okinawa. Therefore, the Marine Corps stationed in Okinawa are the only combat units stationed outside the United States. Since the action radius of the force spans from the Western Pacific to the Indian Ocean, the United States is likely to ask Japan to strengthen its sea-lane defense capabilities.

Concerns About Self-Defense Force Taking Over Roles of U.S. Forces

The U.S. Defense Department report is composed of five principal elements which, among other things, call for 1) lowering the level of U.S. forces in Japan as much as possible, while maintaining bases indispensable for the stability and deterrent in Northeast Asia and 2) improving Japan's regional defense capabilities to enhance its 1,000-mile sea-lane defense capabilities, while asking Japan not to have any idea of developing combat mobilization capabilities, which might bring instability to the Asian and Pacific region.

According to a military source, sea-lane defense requires carrier task forces, amphibious units like the Marine Corps, and ballistic missile capabilities. The U.S. side is asking the Japanese to strengthen defense capabilities, while reducing the Marine Corps in Okinawa. Thus, the United States is asking Japan to take over roles played by its Marine Corps in Okinawa in the past.

Hence, the question of Okinawa, which is closely linked with the sea-lane defense, is surfacing because of its geographical location. Frankly speaking, many Okinawans are concerned that troops of the Self-Defense Force [SDF] may be reinforced to take over roles of the U.S. forces after they are cut and phased out. Although it is said that the Okinawans' perception of the SDF troops has gradually changed since Okinawa reverted to Japanese sovereignty, in a sense, they still have stronger bad feelings against them than those against U.S. forces, because of the Okinawa battles. If the troops of the SDF actually take over the role of the U.S. forces after the latter are reduced and their bases are scaled back, this will undoubtedly trigger great criticism and backlash among Okinawans.

The U.S. attitude appears to be contradictory. The United States is asking Japan to strengthen sea-lane defense, while taking a vigilant attitude against Japan's buildup of combat capabilities which might bring instability to the Asian and Pacific region. Japan's military buildup will certainly draw growing backlash from Asian nations, including China. Measures to put a brake on this military buildup should be seriously considered.

Moves have come out at long last in response to the Okinawan people's tenacious campaign for the withdrawal of U.S. forces and reduction of bases, and the U.S.-Soviet detente. It is necessary to hastily work out plans to utilize lands available as a result of reduced bases.

Okinawan Labor Leader Questions Employee Issue

OW0505214190 Naha OKINAWA TIMES in Japanese 25 Apr 90 Morning Edition p 2

[Text] Okinawa Rengo [Private Sector Trade Union Confederation] Chairman Isao Kamiyama and five other Rengo representatives called at the Naha Defense Facilities Administration Bureau on the morning of 24 April to meet with General Director Keijiro Yanai and hand him a five-point request. The request includes the question of Japanese employees in connection with the U.S. Defense Department's plans to reduce U.S. forces on Okinawa.

At the meeting with the general director, Chairman Kamiyama said: "Although we welcome the plans to reduce the U.S. forces on Okinawa from the standpoint of the Okinawan people, this will affect the livelihood of the employees and their families. We hope that the bureau will take appropriate measures to avert confusion."

In response, General Director Yanai said: "I understand well why you make this request." He said he would deal with the request after learning about the details of the plans and contacting the appropriate quarters.

On the afternoon of the same day, Chairman Kamiyama called on Moritoshi Murayama, director of the governor's Executive Office, at the prefectural government office to ask for a halt to the exercises U.S. Forces plan to conduct in the airspace near Okinawa in August and for the cancellation of plans to construct ammunition dumps for the Self-Defense Force.

At the meeting with the director, Chairman Kamiyama stressed: "Any new military exercises and the construction of ammunition dumps counter detente in the international situation. The prefectural government should play a leading role in halting them." In response, Director Murayama only said that "the two cases are undesirable situations, and I will ask the organizations concerned."

Okinawa's Yonaguni Town To Hold Border Summit

OW0605135290 Naha OKINAWA TIMES in Japanese 25 Apr 90 Morning Edition p 1

[Excerpts] The Yonaguni Border Summit (jointly sponsored by Yonaguni Town and OKINAWA TIMES) with the border's reversal [gyakuten] as the main theme is scheduled to open at Yonaguni Solitary Island Comprehensive Center [Rito Sogo Senta] at 1300 on 20 May. Following the "Yonaguni Town Local Exchange Symposium on the Development in the 21st Century" held in July 1987, the Yonaguni Town has taken the "opening of the Yonaguni port" as an important task in promoting local development. Those who have been invited by Yonaguni Town to attend the symposium are leading officials from Xiamen City of China's Fujian Province, Hualian City of Taiwan, Kamitsushima Town and Mitsushima Town of Nagasaki Prefecture, theoretical leaders on the policy of promoting the internalization of local areas, and executives of the Okinawa Free Trade Zone. They will gather in a hall to discuss the possibility of promoting trade and tourism in the area covering Fujian's coastal area, or the so-called Min Region, Yaejima and Yonaguni Islands, and Taiwan, while taking into consideration the possibility of the local area serving as the post-Hong Kong port. [passage omitted]

At the symposium which will be composed of six parts, Professor Tadao Kiyonari of Hosei University will deliver a keynote speech on "local development becoming a global issue," and Yonaguni Town Mayor Eisei Tohama on "shifting from the remote region [hekichi] policy to the border policy." Then, reports on measures or ideas connected with various problems in the border areas will be made by Shukichi Hokkama, chairman of the Yonaguni Town Trade Promotion Committee; Takeshi Ganaha, director of the Youth Department of the Yonaguni Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Hiroshi Miyara, vice mayor of Yonaguni Town; Shoshi Furusato, mayor of Kamitushima Town; Ryoko Matusmura, mayor of Mitsushima Town; representatives of China's Xiamen city; and Taiwan's Hualian Mayor Wei. Narinobu Sueyoshi and Tetsuo Taira, chairman and vice chairman of the Okinawa Free Trade Zone, will report on the current situation and possibility of future development at the Free Trade Zone. [passage omitted]

Trade Talks End, Third World Role Stressed

OW0505034190 Tokyo KYODO in English 0142 GMT 5 May 90

[By Shiro Yoneyama]

[Text] Napa, California, May 4 (KYODO)—Trade ministers from the United States, Japan, Canada, and the 12-nation European Community (EC) ended three days of talks here Friday with a renewed commitment to ensuring full participation of developing countries in global trade liberalization negotiations. The ministers told reporters that the roles of less developed countries

(LDCs) in the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations are crucial for a successful conclusion in December.

"The Uruguay Round is now in the home stretch," U.S. Trade Representative Carla Hills said at a news conference. "We underscored our commitment to integrating fully the developing countries into the global trading system," she said. "At the same time, we recognize the need for overall balance in the negotiations, and reaffirmed our intention to negotiate constructively in all areas of interest to the LDCs," Hills said.

The three other ministers echoed the same sentiment toward developing countries, which have been frustrated by the industrial nations' alleged unwillingness to accommodate their needs, such as radical tariff reductions on tropical products and other goods.

"We always have to keep their issues in mind," Japan's International Trade and Industry Minister Kabun Muto told reporters. "The four of us fully recognized that." International Trade Minister John Crosbie of Canada and EC Vice President Franz Andriessen expressed the same view at the joint news conference.

The world's four largest trading entities made the commitment to work closely with the LDCs after an informal ministerial meeting on the Uruguay Round in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, on April 19-20.

Muto said the LDCs are mainly interested in six areas—tariff reduction, safeguards, textiles, countervailing duties, antidumping codes, and agriculture.

"With respect to agriculture, we recognized the urgent need to build upon the momentum initiated at Puerto Vallarta, and to develop an agreed framework for negotiations by the July TNC (Trade Negotiations Committee)," Hills said.

The four-way conference was one of a series of high-level meetings to promote trade policy coordination among developed countries prior to the TNC conference in July. The ministers met, Hills said, "to ensure that the mandate of the TNC is fulfilled, and ambitious results achieved."

"We agreed," she declared, "that the upcoming OECD (Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development) ministerial (meeting) and the Houston Economic Summit should give a critical political impetus to this process."

Muto said the EC and Canada endorsed his proposal to incorporate a ban on unilateral action and threat of retaliation and for compliance with dispute-settlement panel decisions in any Uruguay Round pact. But the U.S., while supporting the idea of strengthening the dispute-settlement mechanism, stopped short of backing the Japanese proposal, officials said.

Muto tabled the proposal only a week after Japan, along with Brazil, was dropped from a list of countries designated as unfair traders under the Super 301 provision of the 1988 U.S. Trade Act.

India was renamed as a Super 301 country this year for refusing to negotiate its alleged barriers to foreign investment and insurance companies under threat of retaliation.

Saying the development of rules of fair play for services, investment and intellectual property is a major objective of the Uruguay Round, Hills said, "strong rules in these areas are vital to all countries, North and South, that seek to build wealth, generate opportunity, and create jobs."

Andriessen asserted at the joint news conference, "financial services should be part of the (services trade) package."

Delegates to the meeting said the EC has also proposed the issuance of a declaration on forging stronger relations between the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank during the Uruguay Round ministerial talks in December.

Hills said, "We remain concerned about the lack of progress and participation in the market access negotiations" on tariffs and nontariff barriers.

After three days of talks at the Silverado Country Club and Resort here, the ministers shared the common goals of reaching preliminary accords on each of the 15 negotiating areas under the Uruguay Round by the time of the TNC meeting in late July. But the big four remained divided over the dispute-settlement mechanism, market access, agriculture, and other politically sensitive issues, prompting Crosbie to predict that resolution of these issues will not come until the end of the Uruguay Round in December.

Muto said, however, he and his counterparts agreed to accelerate the schedule of negotiations on market access, faciliate progress in talks on rules for dispute settlement mechanism, and give serious thought to the idea of a World Trade Organization (WTO) or an International Trade Organization (ITO). He said such a global trade group with authority to govern international rules could be "a vehicle to implement the Uruguay Round agreement."

Muto also said that Crosbie suggested the start of deliberations on the WTO idea in October, or two months before a ministerial of all 106 countries participating in the Uruguay Round in Brussels on December 3-7.

Crosbie said the GATT, under whose auspices the Uruguay Round has been held, is no longer adequate to oversee rapidly expanding world trade.

"Strengthening the GATT as an institution is a goal we share," Hills said. "However, our first priority is to develop the clear and enforceable rules needed to ensure trade expansion and global prosperity." The U.S. trade envoy reported that the meeting's participants agreed to work on the structure of a services agreement based on a U.S.-EC compromise, confirmed the prohibition of some trade-related investmet measures such as local content and pledged to work toward a draft agreement on intellectual property protection.

The four trade ministers will meet in Newfoundland, Canada, on October 11-13.

Bank Governor Departs for G-7 Meeting in U.S.

OW0505035190 Tokyo KYODO in English 0322 GMT 5 May 90

[Text] Tokyo, May 5 (KYODO)—Bank of Japan [BOJ] Governor Yasushi Mieno left for the United States Saturday morning to attend a series of international monetary meetings in Washington.

Mieno will attend a Group of Seven (G-7) gathering of finance ministers and central bank chiefs and a meeting of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) interim committee among other meetings before returning to Tokyo next Friday.

KYODO Publishes Text of G-7 Statement

OW0705004190 Tokyo KYODO in English 2346 GMT 6 May 90

[Text] Washington, May 6 KYODO—The following is the text of the statement issued by the Group of Seven (G-7) nations at the end of their meeting in Washington on Sunday:

The finance ministers and central bank governors of Canada, France, West Germany, Italy, Japan, Britain, and the United States met on May 6, 1990, in Washington, for an exchange of views on current global economic and financial issues. The managing director of the IMF [International Monetary Funds] participated in the discussions on recent economic developments in the Group of Seven.

The ministers and governors reviewed developments in their economies and in global financial markets since their meeting of April 7. They noted with satisfaction the recent stability in exchange markets and continued growth in industrial countries. However, they agreed that price pressures warrant continued vigilance. They also noted the yen had stabilized since their meeting in Paris, but remained of the view that the present level may have undersirable consequences for the global adjustment process. They discussed recent developments towards German economic and monetary union. They agreed that this process would contribute to improved noninflationary global growth and to a reduction of external imbalances. This process would also contribute to positive economic developments in Eastern Europe which at the same time are supported by the international community.

They agreed to keep economic and monetary developments under review and reaffirmed their commitment to economic policy coordination, including cooperation on exchange markets.

The ministers and governors underscored their determination to resist protectionism. They emphasized that a successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round is essential for promoting an open and growing world economy.

The ministers and governors expressed their continued strong support for the strengthened debt strategy, and were encouraged by the substantial progress which has been achieved, including the commercial bank accords with six heavily indebted countries. They reaffirmed their support for the case-by-case approach and for the guidelines governing fund and bank financial support for debt and debt service reduction. They reemphasized the central importance of sustained debtor reforms and urged a stronger emphasis in fund and bank programs on measures to attract new investment and a return of flight capital as new sources of finance for debtor nations.

The ministers and governors also discussed the Ninth General Review of Quotas of the International Monetary Fund. They agreed that a 50 percent increase in IMF quotas would provide the fund with the resources to fulfill its central responsibilities in the world economy. They also agreed on the need for strengthening the IMF arrears strategy as an integral part of the quota review.

Finance Minister Welcomes G-7 Communique

OW0705115390 Tokyo KYODO in English 1111 GMT 7 May 90

[Text] Tokyo, May 7 KYODO—Finance Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto welcomed on Monday a G-7 communique issued the previous day in Washington, describing its contents as "better" than he had expected. The statement, issued by finance ministers and central bank governors from the Group of Seven (G-7) major industrial nations, said "the present level (of the yen's value) may have undesirable consequences for the global adjustment process."

At a news conference, Hashimoto said he had earlier directed Makoto Utsumi, vice finance minister for international affairs, to persuade other G-7 member countries into agreeing to include references to defending the yen in the communique.

Hashimoto's parliamentary schedule has prevented him from attending a series of international meetings currently under way in Washington, including the regular meeting of the policy-setting Interim Committee of the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Hashimoto said the communique showed the concern shared by the G-7 countries that the yen's further downslide against the U.S. dollar would hamper efforts to reduce Japan's huge trade surplus.

The weaker yen, Hashimoto said, will also undermine Japan's international responsibility as the world's largest creditor nation.

Hashimoto also indicated that the G-7 countries might have reached a compromise with Japan because of fears Japan might adopt steps other than market intervention to defend its currency.

A high-ranking Finance Ministry official, speaking on condition of anonymity, brushed aside the market view the same day saying that the G-7 countries would be rather reluctant to support the yen. The official pointed to the lack of expressions favoring specifically preferred exchange rate levels in the communique.

The official said specifying possible ways to defend a currency was not something that should be incorporated in the statement. The official also suggested that Japanese monetary authorities would continue efforts to pursue a higher value for the yen.

Former Prime Minister Departs for PRC Visit

OW0505040790 Tokyo KYODO in English 0328 GMT 5 May 90

[Text] Tokyo, May 5 (KYODO)—Former Prime Minister Sosuke Uno left Saturday for a five-day visit to China for talks with Chinese leaders.

While in Beijing, Uno will meet Communist Party General Secretary Jiang Zemin, Premier Li Peng, and Vice Premier Wu Xueqian.

PRC Urged To Persuade West To Resume Loans

OW0705120690 Tokyo KYODO in English 1136 GMT 7 May 90

[Text] Tokyo, May 7 KYODO—Finance Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto said Monday that he has urged Chinese Central Bank Governor Li Guixian to act to persuade international agencies in the West to resume loans to the nation. Hashimoto told reporters that he had recommended to the Chinese representative that his country aggressively address the issue with Western nations in view of recent political developments in China.

The two met at the annual meeting in New Delhi of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) that ended last Friday.

Most of the loans previously granted to China by Western nations and organizations, including the World Bank and the ADB, have been suspended in protest against the military suppression last June of pro-democracy demonstrators in Beijing.

A high-ranking Finance Ministry official, who asked for anonymity, also said the same day that whether Japan should resume loans to China would depend on how China would handle its appeal to other major Western countries.

Japan's 810 billion yen loan program to China was also suspended following Beijing's crackdown last June.

Official Doubts Merit of Joint Thai Exercise

OW0705134290 Tokyo KYODO in English 1051 GMT 7 May 90

[Text] Tokyo, May 7 KYODO—A senior Defense Agency official on Monday reacted coolly to a Thai proposal to conduct joint exercises between the Navies of the two countries, saying he doubts whether such drills would be "of any merit." The proposal was made by Thai Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan last week in a meeting in Bangkok with Japanese Defense Agency Director General Yozo Ishikawa.

"We could have joint exercise with any nation if we could expect mutual technical betterment," Vice Defense Minister Seiki Nishihiro told reporters Monday. "The point is whether (a Japanese-Thai naval exercise) is of merit." Nishihiro said while the Maritime Self-Defense Force (MSDF), the Japanese Navy, is not authorized under the Constitution to undertake military exercises which are not designed for the defense of Japan, it may take part in international naval exercises intended to upgrade the MSDF's operational skill.

He cited the joint U.S.-South Korean "Team Spirit" military drill as off limits to the MSDF, but Rimpac," a U.S.-led multilateral naval exercise among its Asia-Pacific allies, is the type of maneuver in which the MSDF is allowed to participate.

Meanwhile, Ishikawa on Monday briefed Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu on Chatchai's proposal. Ishikawa said he told Chatchai that he will let experts carefully consider the Thai proposal because it is necessary to judge whether the style, scale, and place of such a joint exercise is constitutional and whether it is reasonable from a foreign policy viewpoint.

Ishikawa said a joint exercise with Thailand should be allowed if it aims only at improving the MSDF's capabilities.

A senior Defense Agency official, who declined to be identified, said later Ishikawa should have rejected Chatchai's proposal instead of giving a vague reply.

Kaifu Vows To Proceed With Electoral Reforms

OW0505121790 Tokyo KYODO in English 1016 GMT 5 May 90

[Text] Jakarta, May 5 (KYODO)—Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu expressed his determination on Saturday to press ahead with plans to overhaul Japan's electoral system as recommended by a key advisory panel last week.

Kaifu, meeting reporters accompanying him on his current Asian tour, said he plans to consult with leaders of both the ruling Liberal Democratic Party and the opposition camp after he returns home to seek their cooperation to make sweeping changes to the electoral system.

The recommendation on electoral reform was contained in a report prepared by the Election System Research Council and submitted to Kaifu on April 26. The proposed changes include a cut in the number of seats in the House of Representatives, the lower house, an end to the current electoral system in which several Diet members are elected from the same constituency, and tighter controls on political funds.

Kaifu said he plans to complete the drafting of a political reform bill by the time the nation celebrates the centennial of the introduction of parliamentary government in Japan in November. Kaifu refused to give a precise timetable for the reform program, however.

He said he plans to call on senior LDP leaders, the speaker and vice speaker of the lower house, and opposition leaders as soon as he returns to Japan.

The sweeping reform proposals recommended by the council, which consists of a 27-member group of academics, prominent businessmen, labor leaders, and media representatives, have drawn fire from politicians not only from opposition parties but also from the ruling party.

Kaifu said he is aware of the dissent and stressed the need to thrash out the proposals among politicians. "After all, (electoral reform) has a great impact on the position of legislators," he said. Kaifu said he has no plans to reshuffle his present cabinet, formed on February 28 and his second since coming to office in August last year.

"My sole preoccupation now is to get the government budget enacted" by the Diet, he said.

Commenting on the final report on ways to resolve Japanese and U.S. structural impediments to trade, due to be issued in July, Kaifu also said he has instructed the economic planning agency to come up with a master blueprint of major public projects for the next 10 years. Kaifu said Japan is taking the initiative to draw up the public works plan, arguing that such a blueprint is necessary to improve the standard of living of the Japanese people.

Japanese politicians customarily talk with reporters accompanying them on overseas tours about domestic politics before the end of a trip. Kaifu returns to Tokyo on Sunday, winding up a nine-day trip that has also taken him to India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka.

Senior LDP Leaders Comment

OW0705085290 Tokyo KYODO in English 0741 GMT 7 May 90

[Text] Tokyo, May 7 KYODO—Senior leaders of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) on Monday encouraged Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu to push for election system reforms, saying the time is ripe to initiate drastic electoral changes, LDP officials said. In a meeting with senior LDP advisers, Kaifu repeatedly expressed his determination to carry out electoral reforms in line with recommendations submitted by the Election System Council and sought cooperation and understanding from the advisers of the reforms.

The advisory council to the prime minister recently recommended a combination of single-seat constituencies and a proportional representation system to replace the current multiple-seat constituency system for the House of Representatives.

In response to Kaifu's appeal, former Prime Minister Takeo Fukuda said the reforms should be realized to pave the way for the two-party political system in which each party will have a chance to take power.

Former Prime Minister Zenko Suzuki stressed the need to gain public support for the reforms and asked Kaifu to do his utmost toward that end.

Susumu Nikaido, former vice president of the LDP, expressed his hope that Kaifu and LDP Secretary General Ichiro Ozawa will cooperate in carrying out the reforms to open a new page in Japanese politics.

Kaifu reiterated the government plan to work out a package of bills for electoral reforms by this fall, when the Diet will mark the 100th anniversary of its establishment.

Ozawa and Chief Cabinet Secretary Misoji Sakamoto also attended the meeting held at the LDP Headquarters.

Later in the day, Kaifu attended a liaison meeting between the government and the LDP and called on LDP members to help carry out the electoral reforms. There is strong opposition to the reforms both in the LDP and opposition parties because they would greatly affect the fate of each lower house member.

Keidanren To Set Up Executive Selection Group

OW0705142090 Tokyo KYODO in English 1141 GMT 7 May 90

[Text] Tokyo, May 7 (KYODO)—The chairman and vice chairmen of the Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren) agreed on Monday to set up a four-man committee to establish selection criteria for the senior executives of the powerful business body. The new committee will consist of four vice chairmen and will be asked to draw up by the autumn a draft for a bylaw establishing selection criteria for the posts of chairman and vice chairmen and their respective terms of office, officials said.

The current selection standards for the top Keidanren executives have been criticized as too vague.

The top Keidanren officers also tentatively decided to establish six other committees—to promote corporate philanthropy, to cooperate with Eastern Europe, to pursue Keidanren's "Global Infrastructure Fund (GIF)" project, and to cover economic matters between Japan and Iran, Colombia, and Tunisia, respectively. A formal decision on the committees is expected at the federation's annual meeting on May 25 in Tokyo, the officials said.

Eishiro Saito, expected to be reelected chairman for a third two-year term at the meeting, intends to stress the philanthropic activities of businesses both in and outside Japan during his new term, Keidanren officials said.

Keidanren is regarded as a Japanese version of the Confederation of British Industry (CBI) and the chairman is generally thought of as the "premier" of the Japanese business community.

New Tank Squadrons To Be Deployed on Hokkaido

OW0505104390 Tokyo KYODO in English 0817 GMT 5 May 90

[Text] Tokyo, May 5 (KYODO)—The Ground Self Defense Force (GSDF) plans to create new tank squadrons for deployment on Japan's northernmost main island of Hokkaido this fiscal year, it was learned Saturday. Under the plan, about 90 tanks along with ammunition and fuel would be redeployed from divisions on Honshu and Kyushu to four locations on Hokkaido.

Defense planners aim to move the tanks closer to an area of strategic importance by creating the five new tank squadrons on Hokkaido where GSDF divisions would otherwise have to wait for reinforments in the event of an emergency.

The strategy, which is labeled a Japanese version of the U.S. POMCUS (Pre-positioning Overseas Material Confined to Unit Sets) plan found in NATO countries, however, has been criticized by some strategists as running counter to the easing of tensions between East and West. Over half of the GSDF's 1,200 tanks will be concentrated on Hokkaido after the redeployment.

According to the redeployment schedule, the new tank squadrons will be under the direct control of the North Army Headquarters in Sapporo unlike the 50 tanks that were added to the GSDF Seventh Division last year.

One defense source said the GSDF was looking to improve its "strategic mobility" with the implementation of the Japanese POMCUS plan.

The GSDF plans, focusing on the strategic importance of Hokkaido, indicate a move away from the idea of "protecting the inland" to a strategy of "a quick defeat," of opposing forces, military watchers suggest.

Under the POMCUS plan, tanks, heavy equipment, ammunition, fuel and other military needs are stationed beforehand in an area of strategic importance allowing the U.S. and its allies to respond quickly to any military emergency.

Shipbuilding Industry Reportedly Booming

OW0705092390 Tokyo KYODO in English 0859 GMT 7 May 90

[Text] Tokyo, May 7 KYODO—The Japanese shipbuilding industry is now booming with an active influx of orders for ships, mainly for very large crude oil carriers (VLCCS), industry sources said Monday. They attributed that mainly to the rapid recovery of the shipping market and the need for new VLCCS to replace obsolete VLCCS, built about 20 years ago.

There are now more than 35 VLCCS under construction or on order, the sources said said. Major Japanese shipyards are all booked as far ahead as two to three years, the Shipbuilders Association of Japan said.

The Japan Ship Exporters Association said Japanese shipyards in fiscal 1989 ended March 31, 1990, won foreign orders for new ships totaling 8.04 million gross tons, a steep 43 percent increase from the previous year. Among the ships ordered were 12 VLCCS. The association said Japanese yards received 43 inquiries from abroad for new tankers during March, the sources said.

Hitachi Zosen Corp., which made a relatively slow start in receiving foreign orders for new ships, has obtained orders for two 280,000-deadweight ton VLCCS, the firm said.

Because of the limited shipbuilding capacity, the prices of ships have risen fast. The price of a VLCC has already soared from 6-7 billion yen a few years ago to 13-14 billion yen now. Growing demand for double-hulled and double-bottomed VLCCS, intended to prevent oil spills, has spurred on the rise in the prices of such tankers.

Japanese yards, which had labored under recession over a long period, however, are cautious about increasing their work force and installed shipbuilding capacity. Sumitomo Heavy Industries Ltd. and other shipbuilders said that judging from their order backlog, Japanese shipbuilding interests will probably be in good shape until the end of the current century.

Foreign Minister Nakayama Visits Yugoslavia

WA0705165990

For Yugoslav reportage on the visit by Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama to Yugoslavia, including reports on his talks with Yugoslav Foreign Affairs Secretary Budimir Loncar, please see the Yugoslavia section of the 7 May East Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Mongolia

P. Ochirbat Hopes PRC Visit Improves Ties

OW0405131890 Ulaanbaatar International Service in English 0910 GMT 4 May 90

[Text] Chairman of the Presidium of the People's Great Hural of Mongolia Punsalmaagiyn Ochirbat starts his official visit [words indistinct] to the People's Republic of China. During the visit there he will sign the political document on May the 10th on trends of Mongol-Chinese relations as well as cooperation agreements in the field of science, technology, public health, and environmental protection.

Prior to his departure, Mr. Ochirbat granted an interview to a [word indistinct] correspondent and noted the significance of Mongol-Chinese cooperation and the implementation of Mongolia's open-door economic policy. He also pointed today's [word indistinct] opportunities of cooperation and the development of small- and medium-sized consumer goods industries as well as the exploitation of a number of mineral deposits. The Mongolian leader expressed a hope that the present visit will promote the consolidation of mutual understanding and trust between Mongolia and China as well as the call for peace, stability, and cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region.

P. Ochirbat Visits China; Meets With Leaders

Normalization of Ties Noted

OW0505135590 Ulaanbaatar International Service in English 0910 GMT 5 May 90

[Text] The assistant members of the group of Chairman of the Presidium of the Mongolian People's Great Hural Punsalmaagiyn Ochirbat and the People's Republic of China Jiang Zemin. [sentence as heard] Chairman of the People's Republic of China [title as heard] Yang Shangkun has met Ochirbat in the name of the People's Assembly of [words indistinct].

The two men expressed satisfaction at the present condition of bilateral relations and raised the issues of security as well as the long-time cooperation and the principles of good-neighborliness and peaceful coexistence. Chairman of the Presidium Mr. Ochirbat had talks with [words indistinct]; they noted that Mongol-Sino relations have been normalized during the past few years [words indistinct]. Mr. Ochirbat noted the keen interest of Mongolia for the experience of China in opening up its new [word indistinct]. Touching upon some international problems, the two men expressed their respective positions for consolidating their inner-dependencies and very close cooperation in settling disputes through political means. Mr. Ochirbat made explanations of Mongolia's proposal on staging a common exchanging of dialogue and on [words indistinct].

The same evening, Chairman of the People's Republic of China Yang Shangkun, [words indistinct] the Mongolian leader and delegation.

Cooperation Agreement Signed

OW0705101990 Ulaanbaatar International Service in English 0910 GMT 7 May 90

[Text] The official and friendly visit of chairman of the Presidium of the Mongolian People's Great Hural, Mr. Ochirbat, to China has ended with the signing of an agreement on cooperation in the science, technology, public health, and environmental protection

During his visit, Mr. Ochirbat met with Chairman of the People's Republic of China Yang Shangkun [title as heard], Premier of the State Council Li Peng, and General Secretary of the Chinese Communist Party Central Committee Jiang Zemin.

The visit of Mongolia's state leader Ochirbat to China confirms that the Mongolian party and government attach an important significance to the development of bilateral friendly relations.

Further Reportage on Visit

WA0504174090

For PRC reportage on Punsalmaagiyn Ochirbat's official visit to Beijing, see the International Affairs section of the 4 May and subsequent issues of the China DAILY REPORT.

Soviet Troop Withdrawal To Begin Mid-May

OW0705100490 Ulaanbaatar International Service in English 0910 GMT 7 May 90

[Text] Commander of Soviet troops in Mongolia Lieutenant General Mayorov has announced at a press conference in Ulaanbaatar that the planned Soviet troops move-out will start in the mid of May and finish in August this year. Within this second stage, 26,800 Soviet soldiers and (?instructors) will be withdrawn from Mongolia together with their technical units.

The Soviet general noted that the complete withdrawal of Soviet troops from Mongolia will end in 1992.

Official Meets With UN Secretary General

OW0405143190 Ulaanbaatar International Service in English 0910 GMT 4 May 90

[Text] First Deputy Prime Minister of Mongolia Byambasuren has met in New York with the UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar. In a two-hour discussion, the two men discussed cooperation between Mongolia and the United Nations organization, improvement of the UN role in the cause of consolidating international peace and security, and expansion of international economic cooperation. Mr. Byambasuren was in New York to attend the UN General Assembly's special session on international economic cooperation.

Finnish Delegation Visits; Agreement Reached

OW0505110090 Ulaanbaatar International Service in English 0910 GMT 4 May 90

[Text] Chairman of the Council of Ministers of Mongolia Gungaadorj has welcomed in Ulaanbaatar the visiting Finnish delegation. It is in Ulaanbaatar for discussing issues of latest expansion of bilateral cooperation in the field of agriculture, light, and food industry. The two ministries reached agreement on setting up a laboratory in Mongolia on determining the quality of Mongolian meat, organizing butter production, streamlining the technology of preserving foodstuffs, and modernization of some food industries.

Reservations on International Laws Dropped

OW0505214290 Ulaanbaatar International Service in English 0910 GMT 2 May 90

[Text] By a decree of the Presidium of the Mongolian People's Great Hural, Mongolia has removed 19 out of 21 reservations to international conventions, including those related to the internationalist cause as well as (?popularized) documents on human rights, elimination of all forms of racial discrimination and discrimination (?of views). Such a decision of Mongolia points to the ever-growing role of international law and its striving to find and use only peaceful means in the settlement of interstate disputes and to strengthen their [words indistinct] international cause.

Government, Opposition Hold Talks 5 May

OW0705093290 Ulaanbaatar International Service in English 0910 GMT 7 May 90

[Text] A regular round of talks between representatives of the state authorities and the Coalition of the Mongolian Democratic Forces was held in Ulaanbaatar Saturday [5 May]. The sides have agreed to form a consultative council at the Presidium of the Mongolian People's Great Hural and Election Commission with representatives of all political forces involved and create permanently functioning parliament, the People's Small Hural.

On Sunday, the democratic coalition held its first joint mass meeting in the central square of Ulaanbaatar, exposing its positions on issues discussed at the talks with authorities.

Following May 5th talks with the official authorities, the sit-in demonstration in the central square in Ulaanbaatar and hunger strikes in other cities and settlements have been stopped.

'Talk' on Green Party Platform, Accomplishments

OW0405123390 Ulaanbaatar International Service in English 0910 GMT 2 May 90

[Excerpts] Many new parties, unions, and movements are being formed in Mongolia in the ongoing process of reconstruction and renewal. One of them is the Mongolian Green Party, which was set up late in 1989 at the initiative of a group of students, scholars, writers, engineers, and technical workers. Now we bring you a talk about the foundation of the Mongolian Green Party. [passage omitted]

Although Mongolia has a vast territory and scant population, Mongolian nature has been carelessly treated because of some internal and external factors. For instance, nine species of mammals, six kinds of birds, 38 species of plants are close to disappearance; more than 800,000 hectares of forest have been cut; 230,000 hectares of sowing areas have become infertile; and dozens of rivers, lakes, and ponds have been dried up in Mongolia. In order to stop and remedy this sorrow ecological state there was set up the Mongolian Green Party.

It may be interesting why the party is called Green. Traditionally green color is the symbol of accomplishment of deeds and stands for life. This is one reason for naming the party Green. The other reason is that nature protection movements in many countries are named Green and the initiators of the party just followed this tradition. The Mongolian Green Party fully supports all progressive and democratic parties, unions, and movements that were formed lately in our country and is ready to cooperate with them. One example of this is that the party, together with the democratic forces, visited a joint Mongol-Soviet uranium extracting enterprises called Marday in East Mongolia and handed a petition to the People's Great Hural demanding to close the enterprises.

At present the Mongolian Green Party are preoccupied with the preparations for the forthcoming elections. The party will not join neither democratic forces nor the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party and its supporters. It plans to form a coalition with lamas of the Gandan Tegchinlen Monastery in Ulaanbaatar. This is because unlike other parties and association, the Green Party does not seek a political power. The Green power works for getting seats in the Small Hural in order to participate in the state activity on the questions of environmental protection.

Since its formation, the Mongolian Green Party has accomplished set of measures on environmental protection. For instance, recently the Mongolian Green Party has sent a petition to the mayor of Ulaanbaatar demanding to remove within 1990 cottages, summer houses, and foreign military units from the Bogd Mount areas in the suburbs of Ulaanbaatar, the oldest in the world natural preserve.

North Korea

No Tae-u 'Fiendish Strangler' of Labor Movement

SK0505053790 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0511 GMT 5 May 90

["Reactionary Offensive Aimed at Stamping Out Labour Movement"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang May 5 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today condemns the No Tae-u military fascist clique's evermore high-handed repressive offensive.

The fascist clique May 3 called a "meeting of prosecutors in charge of labour-management dispute" and put prosecutors on "24-hour emergency duty" and threatened that the prime movers of "labour-management dispute" and all other participants in it would be "severely punished."

The fascist clique described "Chonnohyop [National Council of Labor Unions]" as an "illegal organisation" and is conducting search and investigation operations against its core elements.

This is a criminal attempt of the fascist clique to mercilessly trample down the vital rights and democratic freedom of workers and totally stamp out the labour movement and an intolerable vicious challenge to and an open threat by force against the South Korean workers and people who are fighting to have their just demand met, the paper in a signed commentary says, and continues:

The formation of "Chonnohyop" is a natural political advance of working masses against the colonial fascist rule and evil labour policy and an exercise of their legitimate right to retake their lost vital rights and democratic freedom.

The No military fascist clique betrays the true colour of a fiendish strangler of the labour movement and a vicious enemy of democracy by making even the elementary demand of workers for wage hike and the three rights of labour a target of punishment, describing "Chonnohyop," a democratic organisation of workers, as an "illegal organisation", and trying to obliterate it at its initial stage.

The South Korean workers have no other way but to fight against suppression in order to extricate themselves from their present deplorable position where they are deprived of any rights and maltreated.

However desperately the fascist clique may resort to suppression by force of arms, it can never block the massive advance of the workers and people of all other strata of South Korea.

'Repressive Offensive' on South People Assailed

SK0405105090 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1023 GMT 4 May 90

["Sword-Brandishing of Dictator Facing Crisis"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang May 4 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today denounces the No Tae-u group's repressive offensive against workers, pressmen, students and other strata of democratic forces.

The traitor No Tae-u at a meeting on "day of the law" slandered and insulted the righteous struggle of democratic forces as "an act of wrecking the legal order", crying that "the law must be invoked against it without exception", the news analyst notes, and continues:

This is an open outburst threatening to suppress by "law" even the slightest moves of the people for the right to existence and democracy. This fully reveals his true color as a truculent fascist hangman.

The puppets called a "high-level party-government meeting", "round-table talks on the situation" and so on in succession and raised the outcry that the present political situation has entered "a phase of crisis". They put the puppet cabinet under an "emergency system" and are openly threatening that all demonstrations and strikes will be crushed in the initial stage by "government" power.

The string of outbursts of the puppets are a declaration of an allout reactionary offensive aimed at stifling the forces of democratic movement and a virtual declaration of a "martial law" to bridge over the crisis of the dictatorial "regime".

A terror-ridden atmosphere reminiscent of a "martial law" has been created all over South Korea. The Hyundai Heavy Industries in Ulsan and the "Korea Broadcasting System" (KBS) are still surrounded and occupied by police forces, and riot police is posted and kept ready around the places of demonstrations and sitin and strict check and search are conducted in streets and lanes.

The No Tae-u fascist clique are now desperately trying to save their hopeless miserable lot at the point of bayonet as their predecessors did. But this will only precipitate their self-destruction.

'Fascist Suppression of Press' in South Derided

SK0605083090 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0809 GMT 6 May 90

[Text] Pyongyang May 6 (KCNA)—The Council of Pressmen dismissed in 1980 in South Korea, in a statement issued on May 3 regarding the return home of Kwon Chong-tal, former chairman of the "Committee for the Adjustment of the State Policy of the Democratic

Justice Party," from overseas, demanded the punishment of the understrappers involved in the fascist shutdown and amalgamation of press organs, according to a radio report from Seoul.

Recalling that Kwon, as a tool of the traitor Chon Tu-hwan, played the main part in the 1980 shutdown and merger of press organs and dismissal of pressmen, the council urged the holding of a "hearing at the National Assembly" immediately after he returned home and the clarification of the truth behind the press shutdown and merger.

The statement demanded a penalty also for Ho Mun-to, former puppet National Unification Board Minister, the same criminal as Kwon.

Toward the close of 1980 the fascist clique took a repressive step of closing or merging all the press organs in South Korea and blockaded progressive press activities.

At that time, Kwon, as a member of the Home Affairs Subcommittee of the "Emergency Measure Committee for National Security," and Ho, as the "first state secretary for political affairs" at the "Presidential Secretariat at Chongwadae," earned ill fame in suppressing the press. Such fascist elements who should have already been removed together with the "Fifth Republic" are still strutting about under the patronage of the "Sixth Republic."

Pyongyang Press Workers Urge on KBS Struggle

SK0405220890 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1525 GMT 4 May 90

[Text] Pyongyang May 4 (KCNA)—A meeting of reporters and editors in Pyongyang took place today to denounce the fascist suppression of unionists of the "Korea Broadcasting System" (KBS) by the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppet clique.

Speaking at the meeting, Chong Ha-chol, chairman of the Radio and TV Broadcasting Committee of the DPRK, said that the struggle of the KBS unionists demanding the resignation of the "government"-installed president is a manifestation of their keen consciousness that they should discharge their duty as an unbiased mouthpiece of public opinion and remain faithful to justice and conscience and an entirely just struggle for the autonomy of broadcasting and the democratization of the press.

The No Tae-u group branded their struggle as "an illegal collective action" and drove over 2,000 police troops into the "KBS" to bloodily suppress its employees in their sit-in and walked off 333 of them, he said, and went on:

He, in the name of the entire broadcasting workers and pressmen in the northern half of Korea, sternly denounced the No Tae-u group's criminal act in suppressing the just struggle of the South Korean "KBS" unionists with violence as an epileptic fit of fascist maniacs bereft of reason, as an unpardonable act to stifle freedom of the press and democracy and a most malicious frontal challenge to justice and conscience.

The crackdown timed to coincide with the intensified fascist offensive after the three-party merger in South Korea shows that the "regime of the Democratic Liberal Party (DLP)" is the most brutal fascist dictatorial "regime", a "regime" which violates human rights and strangulates the press and that South Korea under the dictatorship of the "Sixth Republic" is a more terror-ridden land of darkness than under the dictatorships of "Yusin" and the "Fifth Republic," he said, and went on:

The puppets are guided by the script and manipulation of U.S. imperialism in their repressive acts for establishing the one-party dictatorial system of the "DLP".

The No group is suppressing the struggle of the "KBS" unionists at the instigation of U.S. imperialism with the aim of preventing their struggle from spreading to the press circles of South Korea and all over the society and defusing their ruling crisis at any cost.

Chong Ha-chol stressed:
"KBS" unionists should keep up their struggle till their demand is met, not yielding to any outrages and pressure, and journalists and editors of other broadcasting services and newspapers and news agencies should more vigorously fight in solidarity with them.

The No group must look squarely at the trend of the times, immediately stop gagging the press, release all the detained pressmen and dismiss the "government"-installed president as demanded by "KBS" employees and withdraw police from the "KBS" without delay.

The U.S. imperialists must immediately stop encouraging the No group to the crackdown on the press and fascist outrages and take hands off South Korea.

The broadcasting workers and other men of the press in the northern half of our Republic will always stand firm on the side of the South Korean pressmen who are fighting for democracy and justice and render all possible support and encouragement to their struggle.

Speeches were made at the meeting by people's announcer Choe Song-un of the DPRK Radio and Television Broadcasting Committee, Om Il-kyu, a commentator of NODONG SINMUN, and other journalists and editors.

Rejection of Strike Demands Called 'Balderdash'

SK0605083290 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0812 GMT 6 May 90

[Text] Pyongyang May 6 (KCNA)—The South Korean puppet information minister told a press interview on May 3 that the question of the resignation of the president of the "Korea Broadcasting System" (KBS) could not be an object of negotiations, according to a report.

He talked an absolute baloney that the system under which the president of the "KBS" is to be appointed by them must be "respected" and only then "democratic development" will come about.

This is an outspoken challenge to the unionists of the "KBS" who are stubbornly fighting for the resignation of the "government"-installed president and the democratization of broadcasting and to the unionists of other broadcasting businesses and people of all social standings who are expressing solidarity with them.

The unionists of the "KBS" are struggling dauntlessly with a firm resolve to fight it out against the fascist clique's anti-democratic scheme to bring the "KBS" under their control and make it engage in false reports through the appointment of the venal president.

The fascist clique who had sent police force twice to suppress the struggle of the "KBS" unionists made the "information minister" let loose a string of balderdash turning down the demand of unionists and defending the "government"-installed president.

Police in South Commit 'Atrocity' on Strikers

SK0505110890 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1041 GMT 5 May 90

[Text] Pyongyang May 5 (KCNA)—The South Korean fascist clique on May 4 hurled a large police force into a hospital and walked away workers who were on a sit-in strike in defence of the body of Yi Yong-il, a young worker of the "Tongil" company, who died while fighting for existence and democratic rights, according to a South Korean radio report.

At dawn, the fascist clique encircled the Changwon Hospital in South Kyongsang Province with some 1,000 police of eight companies and sent about 300 policemen of two companies into the mortuary, took all of the 149 sit-in strikers to police and carried away the body.

The fascist clique unhesitatingly committed such a criminal atrocity as encircling and raiding a hospital with a large police force, afraid that the self-immolation of the worker and the sit-in of his fellow workers might touch off a new wave of massive resistance.

This shows how desperately the No Tae-u fascist group is trying to extinguish the flame of struggle, frightened at the anti-"government" struggle of workers, students, pressmen and people of other strata which is sweeping South Korea with a fierce force.

On May 2, the fascist clique committed an outrage of walking away some 50 students of five universities including Seoul and Koryo Universities who were staging an all-night hunger sit-in from April 29 in protest against the bestial suppression of the striking workers of the Hyundai Heavy Industries.

That day, in Ulsan alone, the fascist clique whisked away upwards of 720 workers for involvement in the strike of workers at the Hyundai Heavy Industries, detained or prosecuted nearly 80 of them and put more than 120 others on summary trials.

Besides, they have taken into custody a large number of people on the plea of "further investigation" and now intend to punish them severely.

Transport Workers Unions Support Reunification

SK0505104090 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1025 GMT 5 May 90

[Text] Pyongyang May 5 (KCNA)—We support the new reunification proposal for pulling down the concrete wall of division built in the area South of the Military Demarcation Line and realizing free travel and full-scale opening, said a resolution on Korea which was adopted at the 10th convention of the Trade Unions International of Transport Workers.

The resolution expressed support for the Korean people's struggle to get the nuclear weapons and U.S. forces withdrawn from South Korea at an early date and reunify the country.

It fully supported the DPRK's proposal for tripartite talks to achieve a peaceful reunification of Korea and turn the Korean peninsula into a nuclear-free, peace zone.

Kim Yong-sam 'Flattering' 'Fascist Maniacs'

SK0505050990 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0445 GMT 5 May 90

["Flattery of Political Prostitute"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang May 5 (KCNA)—Kim Yong-sam, a political prostitute, on April 30 resigned voluntarily from the post of the Western Pusan "district party chairman," according to a report of Radio Christian from Seoul.

Pretending to "apologize" for the "discordant note" he struck within the "Democratic Liberal Party," unable to overcome the factional strife following the three-party merger, he announced that he gave up that post to a man of "Democratic Justice Party" (DJP) origin who was his rival in the April 1988 "National Assembly elections" when he belonged to the "Reunification Democratic Party" (RDP).

This shows that Kim Yong-sam who joined hands with the No Tae-u group to gratify his greed for power is doing his utmost to prolong his remaining days by flattering the fascist maniacs with his double and treble political prostitution and "get" at least a shred of power from the fascist blackguards.

Kim abandoned the "district party chairmanship" which he had assumed automatically as a puppet national assemblyman to the "DJP" man who is not a "national assemblyman," in subservience to the No's faction, for fear that all his despicable acts should be brought to light and he should lose the post of "co-leader of the DLP" which he regards as a stepping-stone for his seizure of power.

DLP in South Criticized as 'Ultra Right-Wing'

SK0505104690 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1015 GMT 5 May 90

["'DLP' Going Against Trend of Times Must Be Smashed"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang May 5 (KCNA)—The "Democratic Liberal Party" (DLP) of South Korea which is no more than a dumping ground of ultra right-wing conservative reactionaries is fated to meet its destruction owing to the ever-intensified struggle of the people of all segments and its self-contradiction and internal strife growing acute, declares NODONG SINMUN in an article today.

It is quite natural that political and public figures, students and people of all other segements of South Korea oppose the "DLP" and are staging a vigorous struggle to crush it, the author of the article notes, and says:

The "Political Reform" through the three-party merger was a political rebellion to bring under control the crisis of the tottering colonial fascist rule by bringing together the pro-American conservative reactionary forces with the military dictatorial forces as the backbone, gratify the military fascist group's desire for long-term office and prolong for an indefinite period North-South confrontation and division under the back-stage manipulation of the United States and a vicious reactionary offensive against the patriotic forces for democracy and reunification.

With the emergence of the "DLP", parliamentarism exists in South Korea only in name and the "National Assembly" has become a bridesman of the one-party show and an ornament for the military fascist dictatorship.

With the emergence of the "DLP" the desire of the fellow countrymen for reunification in the hopeful 90s faces a new serious challenge.

The "DLP" is a treacherous party seeking a permanent division of the country and a war.

Reality foretells that, should the "DLP" be left alone, a dark period of military fascist dictatorship more high-handed than the "Yushin" and "Fifth Republic" dictatorship put together will fall on South Korea to force a harsher yoke of subjugation and repression upon the South Korean people and lay higher hurdles in the way of national reunification.

The article continues:
The opposition camp, dissident democratic forces and the people of all other walks of life in South Korea should form an all-nation democratic united front, irrespective of political affiliation and isms, merge their voices in the anti-"DLP" slogan and support and respond to each other through their solidarity struggle and joint struggle.

The chief culprit in the formation of the "DLP" in South Korea is the U.S. aggression forces.

All the patriotic forces for the nation, democracy and reunification in South Korea must strip bare the true color of the U.S. imperialists, the colonial ruler and the chieftain of fascism and division, never pardon their hideous crime in framing up the "DLP" by manipulating and bringing together the fascist dictator and mountebanks and decisively break their crooked hands of domination and interference.

U.S. 'Three-Stage Reduction Program' Criticized

SK0405105390 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1028 GMT 4 May 90

["U.S. Imperialists' Deceptive 'Three-Stage Reduction' Program"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang May 4 (KCNA)—The U.S. imperialists' "three-stage reduction program" is nothing but a kind of redeployment plan in South Korea intended to increase the combat capacity with an insignificant cutback of logistic personnel, leaving their aggression forces and nuclear weapons intact.

NODONG SINMUN today says this in an article titled "deceptive 'three-stage reduction' program of U.S. imperialists going against trend of times".

Noting that the program completely leaves out the fundamental matters such as the stages and procedures of the withdrawal of the U.S. Forces, the scale and content of the reduction, steps for withdrawing, above all, the U.S. command and the main combat personnel and the nuclear weapons, the author of the article says:

The U.S. imperialists announced that they would "reduce" the air force by 2,000 men and ground force by 5,000 men in the first stage, failing to specify the scale and content of the "reduction" in the second and third stages. And they declared that the U.S. Forces would be needed in South Korea even in the third stage.

As for the abovesaid 7,000 troops envisaged in the first stage cut, they are mostly noncombatants engaged in secondary fields as they admit.

As regards the U.S. Second Infantry Division, the main combat unit, they say its "reorganisation," not withdrawal, would be examined in the second stage.

All this shows that the U.S. imperialists' "reduction" program is neither a partial cut program meaning the beginning of a total withdrawal of the U.S. troops and nuclear weapons from South Korea nor a gradual reduction program seeking an overall reduction of the U.S. combat forces.

The U.S. imperialists contend that the deceptive "three-stage reduction" program will be conducive to easing tensions on the Korean peninsula and building "confidence." But this is a crafty ruse to cover up the hypocritical nature of the program and justify their occupation of South Korea.

They must no more turn a deaf ear to the demand of the times for an early relaxation of tensions and guarantee of peace on the Korean peninsula, give up the tricky "reduction" business and take a practical step for the total withdrawal of their troops and nuclear weapons from South Korea.

U.S. Troop Cut Called 'Hypocritical Plan'

SK0705104890 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1032 GMT 7 May 90

["U.S. Imperialists' 'Troop Cut Program' Is Arms Buildup Plan"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang May 7 (KCNA)—The "Troop Reduction Program" of the U.S. Forces occupying South Korea advertised by the U.S. imperialists is a hypocritical plan to mislead public opinion at home and abroad through the reduction of an insignificant number of noncombatant personnel and cover up their arms buildup and war preparations and, at the same time, a kind of redeployment program to realize their invariable aggressive Asia-Pacific strategy, NODONG SINMUN today in a signed article says, and continues:

As far as the "three-stage reduction program" of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets is concerned, 7,000 troops to be reduced by 1993 in the first stage are noncombatant personnel, the number [passage indistinct] in the second and the third stage has not yet been published and even the deadline of the third stage of troop cuts which will begin in 1996 not set.

The U.S. imperialists are making haste with the implementation of their combat power reinforcement plan to increase the "quality and capacity" of combat units to make up for the partial reduction of secondary noncombant personnel out of the U.S. forces present in South Korea.

They seek to install a powerful and modernized U.S. Airforce operation commanding system with the air bases in Osan and Kunsan as its centre to offset the transfer of 18 Taegu-based "RF-4C" tactical reconnaissance planes to the puppet airforce and intend to additionally build a new night operation battalion which is formed with 24 latest-type "F-16" fighter-bombers with night flight equipment this year. This is part of their combat power reinforcement plan.

Though the U.S. imperialists say that they will dismantle air bases in Taegu, Suwon and Kwangju, they do not bother to conceal the fact that they will redeploy the main combat troops and equipment there in other bases of South Korea and not completely dismantle them, but only stop their operation temporarily.

The annual "Team Spirit" joint military exercises are adventurous nuclear war games and, at the same time, a lever of arms buildup for bringing unhindered all kinds of combat equipment to South Korea.

It is not a secret that they will move the U.S. bases in the Philippines to South Korea in case they should be withdrawn from there.

The U.S. imperialists are promoting a plan to equip the puppet armed forces as well as the U.S. forces occupying South Korea with modern means of war, which envisases the supply of submarines, missiles and tanks, notably the transfer of 120 Europe-based "F-18" fighter planes to the puppet army.

The U.S. troops "reduction program" is , after all, a reenactment of Carter's deceptive 1977 commitment to troop pullout, and it is not a troop pullout but a kind of "troop readjustment" to maintain the U.S. Forces in South Korea and further reinforce them.

This shows that the U.S. imperialists seek as ever the aggressive design to overpower the socialist and progressive forces with "strength" in the Asia-Pacific region and realize their domination there.

The U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets are creating the public opinion as if the U.S. troop "reduction program" is conducive to detente but it is aimed at flouting the public opinion which demands the U.S. troop withdrawal and hamstringing the daily growing anti-U.S. Sentiments of the South Korean people.

If the U.S. imperialists truly want detente and peace on the Korean peninsula, they must naturally approach our phased and balanced disarmament proposal with a sincere attitude and put forward a realistic troop pullout proposal conforming to the current trend of the times and take practical steps to implement it.

U.S. 'Frantically' Stages 'Provocative War Game'

SK0505152290 Pyongyang KCNA in english 1509 GMT 5 May 90

[Text] Pyongyang May 5 (KCNA)—The U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets continue staging military maneuvers under various names on the ground and in the sky against the northern half of Korea, according to military sources.

The U.S. imperialists mobilized large transport planes on the night of May 4 to airlift ground forces under the Okinawa-based Pacific forces command to the Kunsan airforce base in South Korea.

Their wild design to invade the North was fully revealed by this exercise aimed at increasing the real war capacity of quickly hurling special unit troops of the overseas-based aggression forces into the operational zone on the Korean front in "case of emergency."

From around 09:00 to around 17:00 May 2, the U.S. imperialists brought warplanes of various types including scores of "F-16" fighter-bombers and formations of "A-6" assault planes from overseas bases into the sky over South Korea and staged an exercise simulating joint strikes at targets in the strategic and tactical depth of the northern half of Korea.

From around 07:00 to around 18:00 April 30 and May 1, they frantically staged a provocative war game simulating preemptive strikes at targets in the central area of the northern half of Korea in the skies above Wonju, Pyongchang and Chechon on several occasions in coordinated operations of formations of overseas-based "F-16" fighter-bombers and formations of "F-4," "F-5" and "F-16" fighter-bombers belonging to the South Korean puppet airforce.

A total of more than 430 fighter-bombers participated in the aerial war games.

And the South Korean puppets massively mobilized puppet army units of different services including a motorized infantry division over April 27-28 to stage a mobile exercise simulating an operation of "infiltration" into the northern half of the country and a joint ground and air strike exercise.

All these war gambles fully expose the bellicose nature of the U.S. imperialists, the chieftain of aggression and war, and their stooges.

Fishermen Protest 'Destruction' of Fishing Area

SK0705103390 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1029 GMT 7 May 90

[Text] Pyongyang May 7 (KCNA)—Fishermen in Yongil County, North Kyongsang Province, protested against the U.S. imperialist aggressors' destruction of fishing ground and demanded compensation for the loss, according to a report.

A U.S. Army tanker participating in the "Team Spirit" joint military exercises let oil flow out during refuelling on March 16, destroying the fishing ground and spoiling undaria pinnatifia under cultivation along the coast of Yongil County.

The fishermen are demanding compensation, giving vent to wrath at the U.S. imperialist aggressors.

U.S. 'Scheme To Invade Cuba' Denounced

SK0605092290 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0844 GMT 6 May 90

["U.S. Imperialists' Adventurous Scheme of Armed Invasion Against Cuba"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang May 6 (KCNA)—The U.S. imperialists must look squarely at the strength and stamina of the Cuban people and stop at once their frantic military racket, giving up their scheme to invade Cuba by armed forces, says NODONG SINMUN today in a commentary.

Denouncing the U.S. imperialists for staging parachuting and landing exercises in Puerto Rico and the "defense" exercise in the Guantanamo U.S. Naval Base before the war game code-named "Ocean Venture" ended.

The news analyst says:
In fact, the military exercises being staged by the U.S. imperialists are a test war to invade Cuba.

Unable to attain their aim with the persistent political, economic and diplomatic pressure and blockade and tenacious ideological harassment, the U.S. imperialists are trying to achieve their criminal aim through a direct armed invasion at any cost. They intend to invade Cuba with armed forces when an excuse is found while staging military exercises by massing their armed forces around her. So they did in Panama. But they are making a mistake.

The Cuban people are united as firm as a rock around the Communist Party headed by Comrade Fidel Castro and are filled with the determination to defend socialist Cuba.

A few days ago Comrade Fidel Castro declared that Cuba is fully ready to counter any surprise attack. On May 2 Cuba started a military exercise called code-named "Shield of Cuba" to cope with the large-scale military exercise of the U.S. Forces. This shows the unshakable will of the Cuban people to defend the independence and sovereignty of the country and socialism.

The Korean people who regard the revolutionary cause of the Cuban people as their own cause strongly condemn the U.S. imperialists' attempt to invade Cuba with armed forces and express full support and militant solidarity for the just struggle of the Cuban people.

Japanese Remarks on North Arms Buildup Assailed

SK0505052290 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0452 GMT 5 May 90

[Text] Pyongyang May 5 (KCNA)—The director of the Japanese Defence Agency during his recent trip to Australia alleged that the DPRK continues to build up armaments and imports high-performance weapons and that is a factor of instability in the Korean peninsula and the rest of Asia.

NODONG SINMUN today brands his remarks as a groundless fabrication and a vicious provocative outburst against the DPRK.

The news analyst says:
Those who are bringing the clouds of nuclear war, increasing the tensions and causing unrest in the Korean peninsula and the rest of Asia are none other than the U.S. imperialists bent on executing their Asia-Pacific

strategy and the Japanese reactionaries who would not shy from nuclear adventure, captive to wild ambition of reinvasion.

The Japanese authorities' groundless slander of the DPRK is a despicable ruse to conceal their ugly color as a conspirator in the U.S. imperialists' nuclear war scheme and justify their criminal purpose of reinvasion.

The director of the Japanese Defence Agency even took issue with our non-nuclear policy.

We have consistently called for nuclear disarmament and comprehensive and complete abolition of nuclear armaments, proposed to convert the Korean peninsula into a nuclear-free, peace zone and made sincere efforts to put it into effect.

It is, indeed, shameless of him to talk a lie about our arms buildup and import of high-performance weapons and slander our non-nuclear policy.

Those who invent such a lie would be well advised to honestly carry into practice the "peace policy" and "non-nuclear principles" proclaimed by them and lend an ear to the demand of the Japanese people for converting Japan into a nuclear-free, peace zone.

Veterans Delegation Departs for Soviet Union

SK0505110590 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1047 GMT 5 May 90

[Text] Pyongyang May 5 (KCNA)—A delegation of the Korean Committee of Anti-Imperialist Veteran Fighters led by Gen. [General] Of the Korean People's Army (KPA) Chon Mun-sop, chairman of the Committee, left here today for the Soviet Union.

It was seen off at the airport by KPA Gen. Kim Pong-yol, KPA Col. Gen. [Colonel General] Kim Yong-yon, vice-chairman of the Committee, and Military Attache of the Soviet Embassy here Pavel Doroshenko.

KPA Air Force Group To Visit Soviet Union

SK0605091490 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0837 GMT 6 May 90

[Text] Pyongyang May 6 (KCNA)—A flying corps of the Air Force of the Korean People's Army (KPA) will soon pay an official goodwill visit to the Soviet Union at the invitation of the Ministry of Defence of the USSR.

The flying corps will be led by Lieutenant General of the KPA Hong Song-yul.

Deputy Foreign Minister Speaks at UN Meeting

SK0605071990 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 0900 GMT 5 May 90

[Text] According to a report from New York, a special meeting of the UN General Assembly on international economic cooperation was held at UN Headquarters from 23 April to 1 May. Attending the special meeting were the delegations from some 140 countries, including the delegation of our country led by Kang Sok-chu, first deputy foreign minister.

The topics of the discussions held at the meeting were the prospects for multi-lateral economic cooperation for the 1990's and the ways to develop the economy of the developing countries. Delegates from many countries, including the DPRK, spoke at the meeting.

First deputy minister Kang Sok-chu, in his speech, noted that although an encouraging trend has been seen in political relations so far, no positive change has been witnessed in the domain of international economic relations, and that the most important task for the international community in the 1990's is to undertake an international action to narrow the difference in wealth between the north and the south and to accelerate the prosperity of the world economy.

He said that the urgent task at present in realizing effective international economic cooperation and promoting economic growth and development in developing countries is to reorganize the present international economic relations and establish a new fair international economic order. He noted that the international community should pay proper attention to setting up measures to solve important economic problems facing the developing countries, such as foreign debts, trade, finance, science, and technology, and to broadening and invigorating South-South cooperation.

He continued: The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, the president of the DPRK, in his congratulatory speech at the special ministerial meeting of the nonaligned countries on south-south cooperation held in Pyongyang in June 1987, has taught that south-south cooperation is a new international economic order based on the common aspirations and interests of developing countries and that, if south-south cooperation is advanced satisfactorily, it will bring forth a favorable effect on improving north-south relations as well.

He noted that to do away with the century-old disaster of starvation and disease by the end of this century, much attention should be paid to aiding south-south cooperation, and the governments of the creditor and debtor nations and the banks of advanced countries and international banking institutions should conduct political dialogue and coordination from the position of jointly taking responsibility for the issue of debts. He stressed that the DPRK delegation holds the view that the issue of debts should be solved in such a way that the reimbursement period be extended, through dialogue and coordination, until such time when the developing countries have the capability of repaying the debts and that the interest be frozen during the extended period.

He said that peace, disarmament, and development are directly connected with one another and that smooth economic growth can only be ensured in an atmosphere of peace and cooperation, and noted that although a trend of disarmament and the alleviation of tension is seen worldwide at present, arms are continuously accumulated and military exercises are conducted, thus repeatedly committing acts of aggravating tension, in quite a few regions, including Asia and the Pacific region, running counter to the general trend of the times.

He stressed that the DPRK Government confirms that it will continue to make patient efforts to realize peace on the Korean peninsula and fatherland reunification, and to actively join the activities of the international community for the alleviation of tension, for disarmament, and for economic cooperation.

A declaration on international economic cooperation was adopted at the special meeting.

South Korea

No Speaks on Economic, Social 'Difficulties'

SK0705031190 Seoul Television Service in Korean 0000 GMT 7 May 90

["Special statement" by President No Tae-u at Chongwadae—live]

[Text] Fellow countrymen: Because of the difficulties facing our nation in the many domains of politics, economy, and society, the people's feeling of uneasiness has been created. I, as the highest person responsible for the nation's affairs, am very sorry for today's situation. For the past three years since the 29 June declaration, all the people have made efforts to promote democracy and fix a new order on this land.

Our course of democratization has not been smooth. Despite the dear price we have paid, the pains still continue. The people's uneasiness has increased recently because the phenomena of the transitional stage, including disorder in public security and in observing law and order, have not been eliminated. A few recent incidents have further aggravated such phenomena.

Through the merger of the three political parties, a foundation for political stability was laid. However, the course of forming a new ruling party by integrating political forces with different constitutions disappointed the people.

The recent trend is that the government failed to win the people's trust in consistently implementing its policies while the people even doubt the government's will for stability. The sense of prostration of many people, whose dreams for purchasing a house have disappeared due to the increase in housing prices, and the pains of the common people, who were forced to move due to the increase in down payments and monthly payments for the lease of a house, have grown indeed great.

In addition, the price increase has made the people feel uneasy, and with the abrupt drastic stock price fall, the people's feeling of uneasiness toward the economy was increased. Since the beginning of the New Year, thanks to the new consciousness of many people and the self-restraint of the workers, the number of employer-employee disputes have remarkably decreased and management- worker relations have been greatly stabilized.

However, the long-term boycott of work by KBS [Korean Broadcasting System], which is the broadcast of the people, and the subsequent illegal strike at Hyundai Heavy Industries have expanded social unrest.

I, as the president, intensely feel the responsibility for all of these situations.

Fellow countrymen: I will lead the nation's affairs with extraordinary determination and attitude so that stability is attained in the political, economic, and social domains by the end of the year at the latest to such an extent that the people can have peace of mind. By deciding the priority of tasks during this period, the government will powerfully push ahead with these plans, and in particular, will make intensive efforts for the following works:

I will encourage the carrying out of these tasks with resourcefulness and will take the necessary steps until such works show practical results and are consolidated.

First, I will properly maintain social order through resolute and strict execution of laws forbidding illegal acts. When illegal and order-destroying acts are neglected, the economy cannot be properly managed, and the foundation for the development of democracy will collapse. Even from the standpoint of ensuring the basic rights for all people to live in peace, I will see to it that law and order is observed.

Second, I will see to it that large business groups and financial organizations, including securities and insurance companies, dispose of real estate holdings that are either excessive or unrelated to the running of their businesses, even to the point of forcing them to sell the holdings. I will correct the trend in which entrepreneurs seek profits through real estate speculation instead of production activities.

Based on the supreme power endowed in me, I will see to it that the relevant laws on viewing real estate as public possession, which were already promulgated, and measures made public on 13 April to repress real estate speculation, are powerfully implemented.

The government will reform the tax system in such a way as to impose heavier taxes on unearned income and to have the honestly earned income and profits protected even more.

Third, the government will guarantee lawful labor movements to the fullest possible extent, but will strongly deal with unlawful labor disputes or collective acts undertaken with political purposes that stray from the realm of the labor-management framework.

Fourth, the government will make our economy grow amid stability by encouraging the enterprises to invest and by supporting the manufacturers so that they can improve their competitiveness and develop technology, all to the fullest extent.

At the same time, the government will undeviatingly enforce policies to build dwellings for the working people and the masses and to promote the welfare of the farmers, fishermen, and workers in the low-income brackets.

I, the person who is responsible for the governing party, will do my best to make the Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] take the form of a united party as soon as possible and dissipate public mistrust in politics.

My fellow countrymen:

It is true that our economic situation has become difficult, with its competitiveness dropping and the international balance of payment reversing to deficits. Nevertheless, we are in no way faced with a crisis.

At present, our economy is currently growing at around 7 percent per year and employment and economic figures are not looking bad at all. Even exports are showing signs of recovery, although a bit slow. Since the beginning of this year, prices have gone up a little too much, an estimated 4.7 percent. However, I think the government will be able to keep the prices down at to a level of 7 to 8 percent rate by the end of the year.

The question stems from the fact that the uneasy consciousness widespread in society worsens our difficulties. Our economic future depends on the will and efforts of the government, businesses, working people, and consumers as well as all the driving forces of the economy. I think our economy will keep growing substantially if we self-confidently move toward that goal, even from this moment onward.

The economy cannot be managed by the government alone. The same is true of prices. It is undeniable that the government's maladministration is partly to blame. Since wages have risen by nearly 100 percent over the past three years, there is no reason to believe that prices will remain the same.

When the prices increase, the masses and working people are the first to suffer and our economic competitiveness is bound to be weakened. If one, while fostering a climate of unrestrained consumerism with an extravagant lifestyle, blames and holds the government accountable for that and does nothing about it, this will only aggravate the sufferings of us all.

Now is the time when we all should look inside ourselves to see whether or not we are doing our duties. Only when all the members of our society do their part and carry out their duties, can we make our country prosperous. To urge the government to do everything on the strength of its power and directives is the same as desiring a return to authoritarianism. A democratic society is one that is run by the will and strength of the people.

Each and every one of the people from all walks of life should fulfill his or her duty in the spirit of citizenship. The people are the proprietors of this country.

The nation is now in hardship. It now stands at the crossroads of either advancing along the path of development or taking the road of confusion. I, the president, with a sense of responsibility, will do whatever the government should do. My fellow countrymen—businessmen, working people, and consumers—are urged to take the lead in building our economy and in overcoming the difficulties facing the country.

In particular, I would like to ask every one of you, fellow countrymen, for your cooperation in the following areas: I urge industrialists and those in economic circles, who have enjoyed more of the benefits of economic development, to look straight at and pay heed to what the people want today and to do your best on your own to firmly build the foundation of our society to increase its stability. As an effort to solve the land problem, which has been the souce of national discord, I urge you not only to dispose of your real property, which is not considered to be indispensable for use in your business, but also to make active efforts for labor-management reconciliation and for reconciliation among the people.

I urge workers to work harder and, thus, to increase productivity. I urge you to refrain from demanding wage increases that disregard the promotion of productivity. Your demands for wage increases should be made within the scope of productivity. Workers' wages and their working conditions have been remarkably increased and improved in recent years. By maintaining sustained economic growth we should one by one rectify the difficulties we are faced with today.

The housing problem of workers and ordinary people will be greatly improved when the construction of two million new houses, which will be built by 1992, is completed and distributed. I am sure that if we continue to build new houses in this way, everyone can afford to easily have his own house within the next 10 years.

Whenever they have encountered difficulties and trials in the past, our people have firmly united and wisely overcome them. I urge the press organs and leading figures that can exercise great influence on our society to take the initiative in rectifying all wrong tendencies and practices prevailing in our society today, in addition to playing their role of pointing out and criticizing the government's wrongdoings.

Those who are well off should refrain from leading an extravagant and luxurious lifestyle and should assume greater responsibility for building a society of reconciliation. I am sure that when our fellow countrymen extend such cooperation, the present difficult situation will be surmounted in the near future.

Fellow countrymen: We have sought democratic development while surmounting all sorts of difficulties. We cannot retreat from democracy under any circumstances. Today we are faced with an era of change in which the barrier of the cold war has been pulled down and in which East and West Germany have virtually become reunified. The northern world, which had been a forbidden land to us for half a century, has been opened. This great current of change is surging into the Korean peninsula without exception.

We should now earnestly open the road of our national reunification toward the foundation of democracy, prosperity, and the fruition of the northern policy that we have achieved thus far. We are faced with a crucial period which will determine the destiny of the nation.

I and the government will advance forward with extraordinarily firm determination and attitude. I appeal to fellow countrymen for your cooperation. Thank you.

Analysis of Address

SK0705081490 Seoul YONHAP in English 0749 GMT 7 May 90

[Text] Seoul, May 7 (YONHAP)—President No Tae-u's unusual address to the nation on Monday [7 May] was a belated acknowledgment that South Korea is in serious political, economic and social trouble

It was unusual because he admitted responsibility for the crisis and promised to solve it by the end of the year, and No is better known for indecision and for keeping his hands clean no matter what.

The address, televised live to the nation, followed No's cancellation of visits to Canada, the United States and Mexico scheduled for after his Tokyo trip May 24 on the advice of confidants in the ruling camp.

It was under such pressure that No decided to appear in person before the nation—instead of Prime Minister Kang Yong-hun, for whom the speech was written—and No and his government seem determined to see things as they really are. Until recently, No's failure to take responsibility for events was often understood as an attempt to distance himself from the authoritarian style of leadership of his predecessors and an inevitable part of Korea's transition to democracy. Judging from his address, No's perception of the crisis is not so different from the public's.

The chief executive pointed to political infighting in the ruling Democratic Liberal Party, which was born in a merger of his party and two opposition groups headed by Kim Yong-sam and Kim Chong-pil earlier this year. Lack of policy continuity, soaring prices, the crumbling stock market and recurring violent labor disputes were all listed as sources of concern and instability, and he hinted at his personal commitment to solving them.

He mentioned some remedies that might exhilarate the public, including forcing big businesses to sell nonbusiness land, doing battle against illegal labor disputes and extending government aid to enhance the competitiveness of Korean goods. He also hinted at efforts to stop the feud in the giant government party, but it remains to be seen whether No and his government will be able to restore confidence.

His address was mainly targed at short-term policies rather than the direction of the nation amid great global changes. He failed to say whether he has given up on the "democratic reforms" he promised, and attempted for a while, in the early days of his presidency. One public grumble is that his bid to democratize society has given way to hardline policies to suppress movements calling for liberalization in all quarters of society.

Moreover, he failed to persuasively answer the main concern over his leadership—the legitimacy of the three-party merger. No explained that conflicts inside the ruling party stemmed from the different characters of its three component groups, but the people want the answer to a much more basic question. Many people charge that the political restructuring was a betrayal of the nation's choice in the general elections.

The erosion of confidence in No was tangibly shown for the first time in by-elections after the merger, and the successive factional conflicts in the ruling party and social and economic instability are closely linked.

No's address could revitalize the stock market for the time being, but there are few who believe that the unpopular ruling party, with a rating of just 12 percent, will regain the public's confidence overnight on the basis of No's promise to "make efforts" for better management of state affairs.

Cabinet Ministers Discuss Policies

SK0705070190 Seoul YONHAP in English 0629 GMT 7 May 90

[Text] Seoul, May 7 (YONHAP)—Cabinet ministers huddled together Monday immediately after President No Tae-u expressed determination to restore social stability and discussed ways of materializing his pledge.

Prime Minister Kang Yong-Hun said something should be done to curb the import of luxurious, high-priced products, and was told by Trade-Industry Minister Pak Pil-su that the ministry would cut import of those items.

Justice Minister Yi Chong-nam said a law on real estate registration was being drafted to prevent land speculation by giving physical punishment to speculators.

Construction Minister Kwon Yong-kak said his ministry was investigating the price of land across the country. "The government's plan to build 20,000 housing units is progressing well, although difficulties are rising over the lack of steel, cement and other materials," he said.

Labor minister Choe Yong-chol said the government should not discriminate the blue-collar unionists from the white-color unionists in handling labor disputes. The principle of "no pay for no work" should be applied to the unionists at broadcasting systems, he said.

Culture minister Ye O-yong said the government needed to deal with the dissident activists in a cultured manner. "While the dissidents follow a cultured manner shouting slogans and reciting poems, the government relies on police force only in coping with them," he said.

Firms May Be Forced To Sell

SK0705041790 Seoul YONHAP in English 0245 GMT 7 May 90

[Text] Seoul, May 7 (OANA-YONHAP)—South Korean business groups may be asked to sell their non-business purpose real estate holdings within three months and be banned from buying land to build hotels, resorts or condominiums, a government source said Monday.

The government will order the state-run Korea Land Development Corp. to purchase the real estate if it remains unsold after three months, exchanging it for bonds with a maturity period of five to 10 years, said the source at the Economic Planning Board.

The strong measures are aimed at easing inflation, rooting out real estate speculation and boosting the stock market, which the government has set as the tasks to revive the South Korean economy, he said. The steps, being considered as part of a package of emergency measures to tackle "socio-economic troubles," will be announced Tuesday.

The government is scrutinizing the real estate holdings of large businesses, including 49 companies that have outstanding loans of over 150 billion won (215 million U.S. dollars), to determine their non-business real estate assets, the source said.

The government will also force firms to sell real estate purchased for business purposes if it has remained idle for a long period, the source said. Real estate found to have been purchased using a third party's name will be taxed heavily, he said.

A team of inspectors from the Board of Audit and Inspection, the Office of National Tax Administration, the Office of Bank Supervision and Examination and relevant ministries will tighten control of real estate transactions by businesses, according to the source.

Big businesses, especially conglomerates, have been criticized for amassing huge land holdings as a hedge against inflation rather than for business operations and real estate speculation is mainly blamed for the nation's socio-economic troubles.

President No Tae-u declared his determination to actively cope with the troubles facing the nation Monday.

DLP Hints at Change to Parliamentary System

SK0705065590 Seoul YONHAP in English 0624 GMT 7 May 90

[Text] Seoul, May 7 (OANA-YONHAP)—The ruling Democratic Liberal Party (DLP) hinted Monday it might seek a constitutional revision to replace the presidential system with a parliamentary cabinet system of government.

The indication was contained in an amendment of the party platform approved in a DLP Executive Committee meeting, which also recommended that president No Tae-u be elected party president and that Kim Yong-sam, Kim Chong-pil and Pak Tae-chun be elected members of a supreme leadership council at a national party convention on May 9.

Article 1 of the revised party platform reads: "We...will realize parliamentary democracy in which the parliament and the cabinet should be jointly responsible to the people."

This is seen as an indication of its intention to seek the parliamentary system. A highly placed DLP source said he saw the change as the first step toward a cabinet system, although a DLP spokesman would neither deny nor confirm such a system would be sought.

"You may see the platform as meaning that we can adopt any form of government," spokesman Pak Hui-tae said.

There have been reports that No and the two Kims virtually agreed to switch from the presidential to cabinet system during negotiations on the merger of their parties in February.

Kim Yong-sam, considered favorite to head the government after No serves out his single five-year term in 1993, hinted he does not want a cabinet setup.

Kim is sure to be chairman of the supreme leadership council, putting him in second place to No as party president under the new leadership system to be adopted at the party convention.

Further on KBS Strike, Related Labor Situation

Police Raid MBC Union Office

SK0505025790 Seoul YONHAP in English 0221 GMT 5 May 90

[Text] Seoul, May 5 (OANA-YONHAP)—More than 100 police troops armed with an arrest warrant captured a union leader wanted on charges stemming from a strike at the state-run Korea Broadcasting System (KBS) in a lightning swoop on the main building of the Munhwa Broadcasting Corp. (MBC) Friday night.

Some 20 policemen charged into the MBC trade union office at 10:40 P.M. with an arrest warrant and grabbed Chon Yong-il, head of the KBS union organization section, MBC union officials said. Union officials put up strong resistance but were overpowered, they said. No injuries were reported during the 30-minute raid. Troops were posted around the union office and at entrances to the building to seal it off as their colleagues carried out the operation.

When the police burst in, Chon and a dozen MBC union officials were making leaflets to publicize a joint struggle by staff at the networks against what they call a government crackdown on the movement to democratize the broadcast media. The police withdrew after seizing Chon, one of seven KBS union leaders for whom arrest warrants have been issued on charges of obstruction.

The state-run network remains crippled even though the 19-day strike was outwardly broken up when thousands of police ousted protesting staff from KBS headquarters on Monday night. MBC, Korea's second TV and radio network, and the Christian Broadcasting Station (CBS) have been hit by walkouts as union members protest in sympathy with their KBS colleagues.

The KBS union staged the strike to demand that the appointment of So Ki-won as new KBS president be revoked because the former presidential spokesman, under President Choe Kyu-ha, and former president of the pro-government daily SEOUL SINMUN was closely connected with previous dictatorial rulers.

The MBC union, in a strongly worded statement, denounced the police raid and Chon's arrest as "violence against all the media" and as showing the government's "attempt to gain control of the media." The KBS union charged that the police had acted illegally by entering the office without a search warrant and using violence. The MBC union was to hold an emergency meeting Saturday to discuss countermeasures against the police raid.

In a related move, the Korean Federation of Press Unions (KFPU) has called on its 16,000 members in 52 newspapers, radio and television stations and a news agency to stage a one-day walkout to protest the government action against KBS and MBC. KFPU set Tuesday as the deadline for So's resignation and will decide the date for the industrywide sympathy strike at that time.

But there seems to be room for compromise as dialogue is under way between the government and KBS unionists, a union official said. He said a responsible government official proposed Thursday night that the KBS union hold talks to settle the dispute and discussions are now under way. He declined to elaborate.

Union, Government Hold Discussions

SK0505032490 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 5 May 90 p 3

[Text] Police did not move to break up ralliers attending the funeral for Kim Chae-sok, a 52-year-old worker in the set design division, held in front of the KBS annex building. He fell into a coma last Saturday and remained brain dead for the next three days.

Along with some 700 KBS colleagues staging a sit-in protest inside the annex building, 300 broadcasting workers walked out to attend the funeral service. They marched in procession about 200 meters in front of the annex building and reentered it to continue the sit-in in an open studio of the building that is about 1 kilometer away from the KBS headquarters in Yoido.

In a pre-written statement to the funeral attendants, An called for a continued strike in demand for the removal of KBS head So Ki-won and Information Minister Choe Pyong-yol. "So long as So and Choe stay in office, KBS union workers cannot go back to work," said An, urging the walkouts that have already partially crippled the state-run broadcasting network for the 23rd straight day. The union leader called on the government to release 11 workers who have been under arrest since the Monday police raid on the KBS headquarters to disperse the sit-in protesters.

Kim Yong-kap, former government administration minister, foiled the genuine efforts by the union itself to end the broadcasting stoppage, An revealed.

With the change of the union leadership yesterday, dialogue is under way between unionized workers at the dispute-ridden Korean Broadcasting System and government officials to pave the way to putting an end to the prolonged broadcasting stoppage.

"Dialogue has been resumed to bring back the network to normal," said Kim Chol-su, 36, newly elected to represent the KBS unions' emergency committee, replacing An Tong-su, leader of the KBS union, who had also led the committee.

An, one of the 26 union activists for whom arrest warrants have been issued, has been on the run.

Editors Oppose Joining Strike

SK0505041890 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 5 May 90 p 3

[Text] The Korean Newspaper Editors Association made it clear yesterday that it is opposed to any walkout by newspaper company employees with regard to the current KBS strike.

The association, organized by senior journalists including managing editors, said, "We are opposed to any walkout by newspaper workers because we believe that is an inappropriate method."

It said a strike by print and broadcast media is "an indiscreet act which will naturally heighten the sense of uneasiness and crisis."

The association also said it is regrettable that police raided the KBS building twice and many KBS unionists were arrested.

Majority Wants Return to Normal

SK0505043290 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 5 May 90 p 3

[Text] People hold the government and management of KBS responsible for the ongoing strike at the giant network, but they want the network to operate normally while employees work out a resolution to the dispute, a survey indicates.

Pollees also criticized the use of police force as an act "considerably wrong," according to the survey yesterday.

When two journalism professors of Hanyang University interviewed 493 Seoulites April 25-29, they found 55.3 percent of the respondents wants the network employees to continue work while seeking compromise with the government.

Twenty-five percent said KBS [Korean Broadcasting System] workers should continue their strike until their President So Ki-won resigns while 14 percent said they cannot decide. Fifty-two percent, based on their TV viewing time April 16-22, said they saw less of television during the KBS strike.

The findings showed that 34 percent of the pollees switched to Munhwa Broadcasting Corp. (MBC) for nightly news. But 83.4 percent of them said they were not "inconvenienced" by the shortened KBS news programs.

The KBS strike had started April 11 after the network employees refused to accept the appointment of "pro-government" figure So Ki-won as their new president. Authorities used police force twice to break up the protest, but employees are still on the walkout.

Asked who are responsible for the current crisis, 58 percent said the government and 16.2 percent KBS management. Eleven percent said the KBS union is responsible.

On the government's use of police force against the network, the pollees' opinions averaged "considerably wrong," close to -2 on a scale of -3 to 3, according to the survey.

The government is insisting on So's appointment to establish government power, 42.8 percent of the pollees said, or to exercise its control over KBS, 39.8 percent. Fourteen percent said they do not know the reason while 3.4 percent said it's because So is the right person for the job.

In rating KBS substitute programs, 53.8 percent said there weren't any interesting broadcasts worth watching while 20.9 percent said the substitute programing is "so-so." Sixteen percent said the substitute programs are more interesting than regular broadcasts.

Meanwhile, police authorities sealed off the union office at KBS and blocked some 1,000 employees from entering the station's Yoido headquarters Thursday. Scuffles ensured as striking employees tried to force their way in. The strikers have moved to the network's annex building lobby where they continued their sit-in protest yesterday.

The MBC union, which announced Tuesday it is launching a sympathy strike, is to decide whether to prolong their walkout past midnight Sunday, the date initially set by union officials.

Suspension of Broadcasts Ruled Out

SK0705040990 Seoul YONHAP in English 0226 GMT 7 May 90

[Text] Seoul, May 7 (YONHAP)—The embattled president of the Korea Broadcasting System (KBS) denied Sunday [6 May] that he was considering suspending operations at the state-run network due to a prolonged strike.

"I have never considered suspension or closure of KBS nor have I had discussions with the government in this regard," said So Ki-won, whose appointment as KBS president kindled a 19-day-long strike and a retaliatory police raid april 30.

Information minister Choe Pyong-yol also denied reports that KBS, which has three tv channels and eight radio stations, would go off the air. "The government is not considering suspending operations or closing KBS at present. The government's position is that the dispute should be settled through dialogue," Choe said.

Police have arrested more than 10 KBS staff members in two raids on the network's headquarters in Yoido, western Seoul, but employees refuse to return to work, demanding the removal of the "pro-government and undemocratic" So from office first.

KBS staff were continuing a sit-in and production boycott Monday morning, claiming So's resignation was the only way to solve the protracted dispute.

In six Seoul parks on sunday, KBS workers and their families distributed copies of ONNONNOBO, the weekly of the Korean Federation of Press Unions, carrying criticism of the government's handling of the KBS strike. The federation, headed by Kwon Pong-kil, on Saturday said unionists at newspapers throughout the country and a news agency would go on a one-day strike unless the government had complied with the KBS workers' demands by Tuesday.

Staff at the Munhwa Broadcasting Corp. (MBC), which has Korea's only other TV channel, voted Sunday to end a sympathy strike begun may 1 to support their KBS colleagues and returned to work on Monday.

The union said, however, it would call another strike in a few days unless four conditions were met immediately—Home Minister An Ung-mo's apology for the police raid on KBS and MBC and punishment of police officers involved, release of arrested KBS workers, discontinuation of broadcasting restructuring, and punishment of Information Minister Choe.

The union said it would file complaints against Yi Chong-kuk, chief of Seoul Metropolitan Police, and Chong Tong-su, superintendent of Yongdungpo Police, with the Seoul District prosecution for having searched the office of the MBC labor union on Friday without a search warrant.

Police entered the union office in search of KBS unionists. Chon Yong-il, 38, a top KBS organizer, was arrested in the raid.

Minister Urges Return to Work

SK0705065390 Seoul YONHAP in English 0618 GMT 7 May 90

[Text] Seoul, May 7 (YONHAP)—Information Minister Choe Pyong-yol appealed to staff of the Korea Broadcasting Sytem (KBS) to return to work Monday, saying it was the only way to serve the people.

In an open letter addressed to the "families of KBS," Choe said that since the strike came amid national efforts to establish industrial peace it affected not only KBS but acted as a catalyst in spreading labor disputes nationwide. He said the government would heal the wounds of the KBS strike by solving problems in compliance with the expectations of KBS employees, and would support KBS in every possible way to grow healthy and democratic.

Commenting on arrests of union leaders, Choe said early normalization of operations was the sole way to minimize the pain.

It was "unfortunate and regrettable for all of us" that the police were deployed into KBS, he said.

Further on Hyundai Strike Action, Labor Unrest

Labor Minister on Situation

SK0505034090 Seoul YONHAP in English 0306 GMT 5 May 90

[Text] Seoul, May 5 (OANA-YONHAP)—Labor Minister Choe Yong-chol said Friday an investigation had begun into suspected third-party intervention in strikes at the giant Hyundai shipyard and that the government would strictly prosecute everyone involved. "The government, in light of various situations surrounding the shipyard strike, believes that there has been third-party intervention by outlawed labor activist groups," the top labor official told the National Assembly Labor Committee.

"Police mobilization was the second best step for the government because the strike was illegal," Choe said. "We see the strike at the Hyundai Heavy Industries Co. as a politically oriented struggle rather than a pure labor activity.

"The government, to restore law and order, will take stern action against members of management as well as the union if they are found to have engaged in illegal practices," Choe said. The labor minister did not name the outlawed groups, but apparently meant the National Alliance of Trade Unions (NATU), the largest union movement organization that is unrecognized by the government.

Choe was grilled by opposition lawmakers, who charged that by sending thousands of riot police troops into the giant shipyard in Ulsan the government had aggravated the situation and was thus responsible for a wave of solidarity strikes at other Hyundai subsidiaries in the industrial city, 300 kilometers southeast of Seoul.

Even though some 60 workers perched atop an 82-meter-high goliath crane at the shipyard since April 28 still refuse to come down, the situation appeared calm Saturday as most unions from the subsidiaries decided to return to work.

More than 12,000 police troops stormed the shipyard April 28 to break up a three-day strike and hauled away hundreds of strikers.

The opposition panelists also demanded the release of detained union members from the shipyard and the Korea Broadcasting System (KBS) and demanded Choe resign to assume responsibility for the government action. They also charged that the shipyard's management was negligent in not seeking a compromise with the trade union before police intervention.

Choe made it clear that the government would strictly pursue a "no work, no pay" principle and that this principle would be applied to strikes at KBS and the Hyundai shipyard.

'Radical' Strikers Compromise

SK0505034890 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 5 May 90 p 3

[Text] Ulsan—The prolonged labor disturbance at Hyundai Heavy Industries here took a new turn yesterday as militant workers staging a sit-in protest at the giant crane expressed an intention to make a compromise. The radical workers holed up in the 82-meter-high Goliath crane for the eighth day in a row proposed that they would go down to the ground if police force withdrew from the shipyard.

Yi Kap-yong, 31, leader of the sit-in protestors, forwarded the proposal at meetings with Reps. Kim Kwang-il, Kim Chong-kil and No Mu-hyon of the fledgling opposition Democratic Party Thursday evening and with Rev. Yi Chong-yun of the Ulsan Pyongyang Church yesterday morning.

The workers had demanded the release of arrested union leaders and dropping of criminal complaints against militant workers as pre-conditions for their voluntary dispersal. They had also demanded management's apology for its unfulfilled promises as another precondition.

As for the workers' demand, the management initially showed a negative response, saying that there was no guarantee of a peaceful resumption of work after the withdrawal of police. Hyundai officials said they have no intention at present to ask the police to pull out because it means the return to the original state on April 27 when police stormed the nation's largest shipyard. However, they met the striking workers at the giant crane and had dialogue yesterday afternoon.

Before the talks, 18 workers descended from the crane at around 10 a.m. yesterday. Protesting workers received several containers of water, medicine and food from the opposition lawmakers Thursday.

Some 6,000 workers, about a quarter of all Hyundai Heavy Industries employees, reported to work yesterday and did chores in preparation for work resumption. The company plans to partially resume operation of its shipbuilding plants Monday.

Meanwhile, most Hyundai Group subsidiaries went into normal operation, except for Hyundai Motor, Hyundai Wood Industries, Hyundai Heavy Equipment and Mipo Dockyard. The workers of the striking Hyundai firms are expected to get back to work Monday. Hyundai Motor workers decided to return to work Monday in a vote yesterday morning.

Leaders of the Hyundai Motor labor union decided to normalize car plant operation in a vote Thursday afternoon. The vote result was 11 to 11, but the deciding vote for work resumption came from the union president Yi Sang-pom.

Some 1,000 radical workers opposed the decision, staging sit-in protests at the union office and demanding Yi's stepdown. Facing strong opposition from the hardline workers, Yi put the decision to the vote of all unionists at 9:30 a.m. yesterday.

Workers Begin Hunger Strike

SK0605115690 Seoul YONHAP in English 1142 GMT 6 May 90

[Text] Ulsan, South Korea, May 6 (YONHAP)—Militant workers of Hyundai Heavy Industries Co. Holding out atop an 82-meter-high "goliath" crane for over a week said Sunday [6 May] that they went on a hunger strike to make a protest against the "insincere" attitudes of company management.

After the workers dumped 18 boxes of instant noodles and two 10-kilogram bags of rice down to the ground in the afternoon, a union member said through a portable megaphone, "We are going on a hunger strike because the company defies our requirements for negotiations."

"For the peaceful settlement of the current situation, however, we want to hold a negotiation with dependable company officials at Monday noon," said the unidentified worker.

An estimated number of 100 union leaders and workers fled to the crane, dubbed as "Invincible Fortess," of the nation's largest shipyard, when riot police stormed the shipyard on April 28 to rout thousands of workers who had been on strike since April 25 demanding the release of union leaders. Surrendering to thirst and sickness, scores of workers have so far stepped down out of the 30-story crane.

Prompted by the workers' threat of fasting, a company director told them on a loudspeaker that it would accept the union's request for talks, but that it would inform the time and place for the negotiation later after consultation.

The company decided to hurry its plan to set up a hot line for dialogue with the unionists camping on the crane. The unionists had asked for the establishment of it when opposition lawmakers climbed up the crane for investigation.

Earlier Sunday, meanwhile, about 3,000 workers of Hyundai Heavy Industries Co. and Hyundai Group affiliates at this southeastern port of Ulsan fought the tear gas-firing riot troopers hurling stones and firebombs, when the police blockaded the workers' protest rally site.

DLP Accused of 'Unfair Personnel Management'

SK0505041490 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 5 May 90 p 2

["News Analysis" by staff reporter Chong Pong-ok: "'Unfair Personnel Management Sparks DLP Staffers' Walkout"]

[Text] About 200 nonclerical ruling party staffers walked off the job yesterday in a show of displeasure at what they claimed was "unfair personnel management."

The mass walkout came only one day after some 130 white-collar staffers at the party secretariat walked out en masse in protest against the party's recent mid-level reshuffle based on politics rather than ability and other factors. The wildcat strike has virtually paralyzed the secretariat on the eve of the inaugural national convention slated for May 9.

They issued a statement Thursday alleging that personnel appointments May 1 were decided by political bargaining among the DLP [Democratic Liberal Party] factions and ignored the career, education and age of candidates.

The strikers, who all came from the former DJP [Democratic Justice Party], met again yesterday to work out their next move in defiance of Pak Chun-pyong, secretary-general, who said they may face stern disciplinary measures unless they return to work immediately.

Their move followed factional disputes, highlighted by the head-on confrontation between Kim Yong-sam, a DLP co-leader, and Pak Chol-on, first state minister for political affairs, who resigned recently. The DLP secretariat staffers, who worked for the secretariat of the defunct Democratic Justice Party, say their counterparts from Kim Yong-sam's Reunification Democratic Party [RDP] were assigned to "unreasonably" high posts. "For example, a 31-year-old college student was appointed deputy bureau chief at the secretariat simply because he is close to Kim, the second man in our party," one of the protesters insists.

The workers at the DLP secretariat from the New Democratic Republican Party [NDRP] are onlookers.

The DLP is a merger of the former ruling DJP, and two minor opposition parties, the RDP and NDRP. The merger came under an agreement reached by the leaders of the three parties—President No Tae-u, Kim Yong-sam and Kim Chong-pil who led the NDRP.

Academic and work barriers are not everything. This is the argument of Kim Yong-sam's men at the DLP secretariat: "We have been jailed and have differing social careers that those from the ruling camp." This feeling is common among those from the RDP. The DJP recruited its secretariat workers in open competitions, while the office workers of the RDP secretariat were volunteers. Workers at the secretariat should be assigned according to their career and ability because working-level officials have nothing to do with political games, the protesters say.

Many political watches view the disputes in the DLP secretariat as a form of factional strife. The intraparty disputes recurred within one month after top leaders of the ruling camp gathered in a move to stop factional disputes.

Trouble at the DLP secretariat was apparently caused by the distribution of all posts in proportion to the number of the three parties' lawmakers plus the status of the three co-leaders, No and the two Kims. Under the principle, the office of secretary-general was taken by the DJP faction, that of floor leader at the National Assembly by the RDP faction and that of chief policymaker by the NDRP faction.

The case is the same with the new leadership in the DLP chapters in the 227 parliamentary electoral districts. The posts were distributed among the three factions in proportion to their power in the National Assembly. The number of lawmakers stands at 127 for the DJP faction, 55 for the RDP faction and 35 for the NDRP faction.

In a gesture of protest, the dissatisfied staffers at the DLP secretariat did not report to the office yesterday, instead holding a meeting. "We have no option but to write a letter of resignation unless the party corrects the unfair personnel management," says a senior member.

Not a few political observers doubt the DLP national convention, the first since the inauguration of the new ruling party was declared Jan. 22, can be held next Wednesday as scheduled.

DLP Secretary-General Pak Chun-pyong is warning the protesters. But they are unlikely to return to work unless their feelings are soothed in a change in personnel management.

'Broad' Reforms Needed To Settle Labor Disputes

SK0505044490 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 5 May 90 p 3

[Text] Bitter strikes in Korea have highlighted the urgent need for the government to use mediation instead of truncheons to end workers' disputes. Strikes at the country's largest shipyard and the state-run television station may have only narrow economic effects but both are politically damaging to a government already under fire for Korea's sagging economic performance.

Even though the disputes at Hyundai heavy Industries and the Korea Broadcasting System (KBS) come during a year of decreasing labor problems, they pose a challenge for the government of President No Tae-u. Serious economic and political damage could be wrought if the government does not reform its antiquated labor laws and provide an acceptable means of resolving industrial disputes, diplomats and analysts say.

"There needs to be broad institutional reform," a Western diplomat said. "There is now no system for resolving disputes using neutral third-parties as in most industrial countries."

Despite labor law reforms in recent years, unions are barred from political activity and seeking professional advice. The government is widely mistrusted by unionists. As a result, South Korea's often inexperienced labor leaders face hard-line antiunion managers without an institutional buffer of formal mediation machinery. Things often get out of hand and the government reverts to truncheons and tear gas.

"We haven't developed any system of working arbitration," said THE KOREA HERALD columnist Kim Yong-won. "As a result we usually go to the brink and then come back," he said. "But we seldom go off the cliff."

The government has created an air of crisis about the economy and has partly blamed the double-digit pay rises of previous years and labor unrest for the economic woes. Growth slowed to 6.7 percent in 1989 against 12.4 in 1988.

At the beginning of this year, No vowed to use force to break up what the government considers illegal strikes. But the tough talk has not assuaged the anxiety that the annual spring labor negotiations bring to South Korea, even though the number of disputes is so far down sharply, largely, some analysts feel, because of worries about the economy.

According to Labor Ministry reports, there were 89 labor disputes in South Korea in the first quarter of this year, compared with 509 during the same period last year.

"There is a general feeling that this is going to be a less strike-prone year," the Western diplomat said.

The bitter confrontations at Hyundai's Ulsan shipyard and the KBS headquarters in Seoul are basically noneconomic disputes aggravated by heavy-handed police intervention and mutual ill-will, and without a mediator to cool tempers and resolve issues.

The Hyundai Group has a history of poor labor relations. The shipyard suffered Korea's longest strike of 128 days last year. "They tend to get into trouble with labor and when they do, they really get into trouble," a political analyst said.

The immediate cause of the current dispute was the apparently company-inspired arrest of union leaders. While police Saturday cleared strikers from the shipyard, both sides remain locked in an ugly emotional stand-off.

"There does not appear in the short term to be much prospect of a solution," the Western diplomat said.

Opposition Debates 'Industrial Peace' Policy

SK0505040090 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 5 May 90 p 1

[Text] Opposition lawmakers yesterday took issue with President No Tae-u's scheduled visit to Japan and the government's ineffective "industrial peace" policy at the National Assembly.

The Assembly yesterday convened the Foreign Affairs-Unification and Labor committees for one day to deliberate the outcomes of the recent negotiations between Seoul and Tokyo on the legal status of Korean residents in Japan, and the intensifying labor disputes.

Rep. Cho Sun-sung of the opposition PPD [Party for Peace and Democracy], expressing dissatisfaction with the agreement reached between foreign ministers of the two countries concerning the Korean residents in Japan, challenged the justifications for No's trip to Japan. He asked Foreign Minister Choe Ho-chung why the government came to accept the agreement which fell far short of its avowed goal of securing for Koreans a legal status equal to that of the Japanese people. He suspected that the Korean government was compelled to swallow the agreement, which provides for improved legal status only to third-generation Koreans in Japan, by the imperative to realize No's planned visit.

"Then, what is the real purpose of No's trip to Tokyo? One is puzzled by the behavior of the government which suggested that the visit is closely tied to a fundamental solution of the legal status question facing the Korean community in Japan," Cho said.

Minister Choe said the confinement of the agreement to third-generation Koreans was inevitable because all the problems could not be solved through a single round of negotiations. He added, however, that the government would labor to extend the benefit of the agreement to first- and second-generation Koreans through No's visit and continued negotiations with the Japanese government.

Rep. Cho also suggested that No should address during his visit other issues pending between Seoul and Tokyo, such as expansion of technological cooperation and reduction of Korea's chronic trade deficits with Japan, and compensation for Korean atomic bomb victims and Korean casualties of World War II.

Another PPD lawmaker, Rep. Mun Tong-hwan, raised the issue of the war redemption made by Japan to Korea in accordance with a treaty in 1965. Mun, saying that the redemption made at the time was insufficient, asked the government if it has any intention of demanding it anew. He also asked how the government would react if North Korea, which has not yet made any redemption demand, raises the issue.

The PPD lawmaker, calling attention to the treatment of pro-Pyongyang Koreans in Japan, asked if the government is willing to negotiate with Pyongyang on the question, given the fact that it has to be approached from a national viewpoint.

At the Labor Committee, Rep. Yi Sang-su of the PPD argued that the recent labor disputes at Hyundai Heavy Industries and KBS exposed the danger and invalidity of the government's policy to secure industrial peace only through reliance on physical force. He also pointed out that the government's repeated blaming of labor-management disputes and "excessive" wage hike demands by labor for economic stagnation proved unwarranted, since the economy is still in trouble despite a drastic decrease in the frequency of labor disputes.

Yi and his fellow PPD lawmakers also assailed the government's "hasty" mobilization of police to crack down on the strike at Hyundai heavy Industries Co. which they argued has brought about a wave of solidarity strikes. They called for the immediate release of detained union members and resignation of Labor Minister Choe Yong-chol.

Minister Choe, however, defined the strikes at Hyundai and KBS as illegal and politically-oriented, as demonstrated by such motives behind the strikes as demands for the release of arrested union members and opposition to a new president.

Choe also made it clear that the government would strictly pursue the "no work, no pay" principle by saying that this principle would be applied to the recent strikes at KBS and Hyundai Heavy Industries Co.

Students Firebomb Ruling Party Headquarters

SK0705032190 Seoul YONHAP in English 0251 GMT 7 May 90

[Text] Seoul, May 7 (YONHAP)—Some 20 students were arrested in a firebomb attack on the headquarters of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party (DLP) Monday morning.

The students, chanting "Dismantle the DLP," attempted to run through the front gate of the headquarters but most were stopped by riot police posted around the building in western Seoul.

A few made it past the guards and into the office of the DLP vice spokesman on the third floor of the building, where they blockaded the door with a table and chairs. Riot police stormed, fired tear gas into the room and had them under arrest within 10 minutes.

It is the first student raid on DLP headquarters since the party was created in February.

PRC's Jiang Says 'No Change in North Korea'

SK0605095890 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean 6 May 90 p 1

[Report by correspondent Pang In-chol from Tokyo]

[Text] According to a report of a Japanese newspapar on 5 May, in connection with the current domestic situation in North Korea, Jiang Zemin, general secretary of the CPC, said on 4 May that "there has been no dramatic change there and it seems that North Korea will continue to adhere to socialism."

According to the report, in a meeting with Jiang Zemin that day, Japanese Diet member Watanabe asked him for China's cooperation in Japanese-North Korean relations, saying that "there have been two major obstacles between Japan and North Korea; one is terrorism and the other is the incident of Japanese boat Fujisan-malu No. 18. If and when these two issues are resolved, there will be progress in trade between Japan and North Korea."

To this, General Secretary Jiang said, "We have conveyed this to North Korea through diplomatic channels on many occasions, but there has been no response," the report said.

Seoul, Moscow Hold Contacts on 'Official Talks'

SK0505022490 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 5 May 90 p 2

[Text] Korean and Soviet officials are having contacts in Moscow to decide the timing of the official talks which they earlier agreed to hold in Moscow in May to negotiate the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries, a spokesman for the Foreign Ministry said yesterday.

He said the talks have been delayed by the Soviet Union because of its busy domestic schedule.

The spokesman said Kong No-myong, head of the Korean Consular Department in Moscow, is contacting ranking Soviet Foreign Ministry officials and Communist Party officials, including Karen Brutents, first deputy head of the Communist Party Central Committee's International Department, to discuss the issue. Kong is also discussing with them the agenda topics for the talks, he said. The Korean government will form a delegation to the talks as soon as Kong reaches agreements with Soviet officials on that matter.

It was earlier known that Pak Chol-on, who resigned from the post of first state minister for political affairs over his disputes with Kim Yong-sam, a co-leader of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party, would head the delegation. The spokesman, however, said no decisions have been made yet on the selection of the members including their head.

Gorbachev's Economic Adviser Interviewed

SK0505073690 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean 4 May 90 p 18

[Interview with Abel Aganbegyan, economic adviser to Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, by Ku Pon-ho, director of the Korea Development Institute; place and date not given—compiled by reporter Paek Sung-hun]

[Excerpts] [Editor's note] Dr. Abel Aganbegyan, economic adviser to Soviet President Gorbachev, came to the ROK recently at the invitation of the Korea Development Institute [KDI]. Dr. Aganbegyan, who is also director of the State Economics Institute under the USSR Council of Ministers [as published], was associated with Gorbachev even before the latter came to power. He was deeply involved in the process of establishing the policy of perestroyka. This dialogue between KDI Director Ku Pon-ho and Dr. Aganbegyan reveals something about the process of setting up and implementing perestroyka, as well as its prospects. [passage omitted]

[Ku Pon-ho] What are the prospects for economic cooperation between the ROK and the Soviet Union?

[Aganbegyan] The trade volume between the two countries was $300 million two years ago, but we anticipate a continuous growth to some $1 billion this year.

The Soviet Union and the ROK complement each other, in that the Soviet Union can supply the ROK with lumber, minerals, and energy resources which the ROK needs and the ROK can supply the Soviet Union with consumer goods, such as textile goods, soap, and electrical household appliances, which the Soviet Union needs. I also think that there are good prospects for joint ventures.

Joint ventures for the production of electric home appliances are already under way, and the ROK enterprises will be able to participate in various construction projects planned in the Soviet Union.

The ROK construction companies, which enjoy a good reputation in the world, will be given ample opportunity to participate in the construction of facilities for the hotel and tourist industries, the leisure industry, and the social centers.

[Ku] The ROK companies, however, have difficulty in expanding economic cooperation because political normalization between the two countries has not yet been realized. What are the prospects for the normalization of diplomatic relations?

[Aganbegyan] I am not in a position to comment definitively on this question because I am not a politician, but it will be some time before the normalization is realized. However, the ROK enterprises do not have to worry in their trade or investment with the Soviet Union even though normalization has not come. The Soviet Union abides by international law, and the worries can be dispelled through an agreement between the two countries based on international relations.

My personal opinion is that the normalization of diplomatic relations will be realized by the end of the year if economic cooperation is carried on successfully.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Defense Minister Meets Japanese Counterpart

OW0405125490 Tokyo KYODO in English 1201 GMT 4 May 90

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, May 4 KYODO—Malaysian Defense Minister Ahmad Rithauddeen urged Japan on Friday to dispel fears about the possibility of Japan's resurgence as a military power. Without identifying particular countries, Rithauddeen said removal of the concern is an "important task" for Japan.

He raised the issue in a meeting with his Japanese counterpart Yozo Ishikawa, who later assured the Malaysian defense minister that Japan will not become a military power as it was during World War II. Malaysia was under Japanese military rule during the war.

Ishikawa arrived here earlier in the day from Bangkok to conclude a five-day tour which also took him to Australia and Thailand, the first trip to the three countries by Japan's top defense policy maker.

In a meeting with Ishikawa in Bangkok Thursday, Thai Defense Minister Chawalit Yongchaiyut also referred to such fears being raised in the media but said Japan should not be too concerned. Chawalit said he is aware that Japan's defense capability is making a contribution to stability in Asia.

During Friday's meeting, Rithauddeen also explained Malaysia's efforts to maintain the safety of the Straits of Malacca and said this has been benefitting Japan, which is heavily dependent on oil imports shipped through the narrow waterway between Malaysia and Indonesia. Ishikawa appreciated Malaysia's efforts to protect of the Straits, according to Japanese officials.

Concerning the regional security situation, Rithauddeen said Malaysia is opposed to the increased presence of military bases in Southeast Asia by external forces. This was interpreted as an objection to Singapore's offer to allow the United States to use its military facilities on the island republic, Malaysia's southern neighbor.

Comments to Reporters

BK0405151790 Kuala Lumpur Domestic Service in Malay 1430 GMT 4 May 90

[Text] The Japanese Government has given the assurance that it will not reemerge as a military power. Defense Minister Tengku Ahmad Rithauddeen said Japan even felt that world peace should be preserved without military conflicts to guarantee trade links through sea routes in the region. He said this to reporters after holding closed-door talks with Mr. Yozo Ishikawa, Japanese minister of state for defense, in Kuala Lumpur. Deputy Defense Minister Datuk Abang Abu Bakar Mustafa, Ministry Secretary General Datuk Nasruddin Bahari, and Defense Forces chief General Tan Sri Hashim Ali attended the meeting.

Abu Hassan on Wider Role for USSR in Region

BK0405103390 Hong Kong AFP in English 0749 GMT 4 May 90

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, May 4 (AFP)—Malaysia, an advocate of pro-West policies since independence 33 years ago, has announced its support for a wider role for the Soviet Union in Southeast Asia. Foreign Minister Abu Hassan Omar told diplomats here late Thursday [3 May] that President Mikhail Gorbachev's reforms were altering Moscow's previously "offensive" presence in the region.

Mr. Abu Hassan said that Mr. Gorbachev's reforms had "profoundly altered the very way we now perceive the Soviet Union," according to a text of the foreign minister's address to the International Affairs Forum obtained by AFP Friday. Malaysia would "not take offence" to any move by Moscow, behaving as a "normal power," to try to integrate itself into Southeast Asia's political and economic system, he said.

Although Malaysia established diplomatic ties with the Soviet Union in the 1960s, bilateral ties have remained low-key while trade is dominated by traditional Malaysian exports of rubber and tin. Bilateral ties were set back in the late 1970s and early 1980s by allegations that Soviet diplomats had sought to recruit local officials as spies.

More recent moves to firm links by setting up a joint venture eye hospital in Malaysia, the proposed purchase of Soviet helicopters by Kuala Lumpur and the selection of a Malaysian cosmonaut for the Soviet space programme have largely stalled, analysts said.

Mr. Abu Hassan said that political changes in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union would reduce superpower rivalry in Southeast Asia. "The Soviets are already in the process of unilaterally drawing down their offensive capabilities in Da Nang and Cam Ranh Bay (in Vietnam)," he said.

Mr. Abu Hassan said that while Malaysia's friends advised caution in dealings with the Soviets, Kuala Lumpur did not see Moscow as being "particularly threatening." "My assessment is that the Soviet Union will now be more inward looking and will require a peaceful and stable international environment to pursue reform and economic development at home," he said.

Mr. Abu Hassan said that while attention was focused on negotiations on the future of American bases in the Philippines, it was more important to ensure that the region's extensive ties with the U.S. were maintained.

"Efforts should also be made to ensure that U.S.-ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) relations are not eroded by trade friction and protectionism," he said. ASEAN, formed in 1967 to promote regional economic cooperation, groups Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand.

"Clearly the U.S. Administration must fight harder to oppose all forms of protectionism and stem the slide towards managed trade while Japan must take steps to open its market," Mr. Abu Hassan said.

He said that the Malaysian Government had set up a special inter-departmental committee to see how it could establish closer economic relations with Eastern European countries.

Cambodia

AFP Reports Sihanouk Not To Attend Talks

BK0705104290 Hong Kong AFP in English 1028 GMT 7 May 90

[Excerpt] Beijing, May 7 (AFP)—Prince Norodom Sihanouk announced Monday [7 April] he will take "a long leave of absence" as leader of the Cambodian resistance, a month before a proposed meeting with Phnom Penh Premier Hun Sen in Tokyo. In a two-page statement issued in Beijing, where he has been staying since April 26, Prince Sihanouk said he would no longer be involved in the politics of his war-torn Southeast Asian nation. Instead, he said, he wanted to "entirely devote" himself to "the rehabilitation of my people, and to tackle without delay the reconstruction of my country." To that end, he asked Mr. Hun Sen to allow him to travel in zones controlled by the Phnom Penh government "to accomplish my non-political mission"—a request that could open the way to his return to the Cambodian capital.

But he added: "I shall not be able in June to travel to Tokyo for political negotiation with Mr. Hun Sen because, henceforth, I no longer concern myself with political issues or problems of war." (Earlier Monday in Phnom Penh an official source said Mr. Hun Sen would meet with Prince Sihanouk in June in Tokyo to discuss plans for a cease-fire in Cambodia. Hor Nam Hong, a minister in the Prime Minister's Office, said Thailand's deputy prime minister and defense minister, General Chawalit Yongchaiyut, was to attend the discussions.) Mr. Hun Sen last week refused to commit himself to a meeting in Tokyo with Prince Sihanouk that would be sponsored by the Japanese Government. Such a meeting, he said, would depend on the outcome of talks in Bangkok between representatives of the former monarch and the Phnom Penh government. [passage omitted]

SRV Reportedly To Accept Khmer Rouge Role

BK0505073190 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0430 GMT 5 May 90

[Text] Vietnam said it would not object to a Khmer Rouge role in a proposed provisional Cambodian Government if the Khmer Rouge were considered a representative of the overall resistance alliance. Vietnamese Deputy Foreign Minister Dang Nghiem Bai said this week that it was possible for Vietnam to accept the Khmer Rouge without the Khmer Rouge label in a settlement of the Cambodian problem. He added that the Khmer Rouge should take part in a settlement of the Cambodian problem only as part of the resistance coalition. The statement came shortly after Hun Sen of the Vietnamese-installed regime made the same remark at talks with Thai Deputy Prime Minister Chawalit Yongchaiyut.

VODK Calls Hun Sen's Appeal 'Another Scheme'

BK0705052390 (Clandestine) Voice of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2330 GMT 6 May 90

[Station commentary: "The Aggressor Hanoi Vietnamese Authorities Can Never Change the True Nature of Their War of Aggression in Cambodia Into a Civil War"]

[Text] On 3 May in Phatthaya, Thailand, at the order of his Vietnamese boss, puppet Hun Sen called the war in Cambodia a civil war and appealed for measures to end it. This is another scheme launched by the Hanoi Vietnamese aggressors to change the war of aggression that Vietnam has waged in Cambodia since the end of 1978 into a civil war. They want this so they can avoid being responsible for their crimes, which have been condemned by the world community, particularly the United Nations, for the past 11 years. Also, Vietnam would be able to legitimize its occupation of Cambodia to send more troops, weapons, ammunition, and Vietnamese immigrants into Cambodia and carry on its Vietnamization policy here as it is doing in Laos and did in Kampuchea Kraom in the 19th century.

The world community, through successive UN resolutions, from Resolution No. 34/22 of 14 November 1979 to Resolution No. 44/22 of 16 November 1989, stated clearly that the war in Cambodia is a Vietnamese war of aggression against Cambodia. In fact, over 100,000 Vietnamese aggressor troops are now fighting against the Cambodian national resistance forces on all battlefields throughout the country, particularly in Battambang, Siem Reap, and Kompong Thom where fierce fighting is going on. Diplomats, both in the West and the East, have all acknowledged this. The U.S. Government spokesman stressed on 1 May that the presence of Vietnamese troops in Cambodia is the obstacle to the normalization of relations between the United States and Vietnam. Therefore, the aggressor Hanoi Vietnamese authorities can never change the true nature of their war of aggression in Cambodia into a civil war. By puppet Hun Sen's echo of the Vietnamese statement that the war in Cambodia is a civil war, the world community has become well aware that:

1. The Hun Sen-Heng Samrin puppets are a complete tool of Vietnamese aggression against Cambodia. They want Cambodia to remain under Vietnamese control so they can continue to plunder the people's property.

2. The Hanoi authorities do not want to withdraw their troops from Cambodia. They do not want to really resolve the Cambodian problem through political means.

This is why the world community has seen the need to continue pressuring Vietnam, economically, politically, and diplomatically, to force it to really withdraw all its aggressor troops from Cambodia under the supervision of the United Nations and the four Cambodian groups and to resolve the Cambodian problem comprehensively and permanently through political means.

VOK Comments on Hun Sen's Rejecting UN Role

BK0505103590 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0430 GMT 5 May 90

[Station "political commentary": "UN Role in Cambodia"]

[Text] We still recall that at the latest Jakarta meeting in Indonesia, on top of the Khieu Samphan party's demand for the deletion of the term genocide in the final draft resolution agreed upon at the meeting, Vietnam and Hun Sen were opposed to the insertion of the words Vietnamese settlers in Cambodia and a wide UN role in the document. In view of the conflict of ideas on these points, can a prevention of genocide in Cambodia by any group be feasible? Can the policy of Vietnamizing Cambodia by Vietnamese settlers be frustrated? Will all the Cambodian parties, in particular the Vietnamese-backed Hun Sen group, agree to allow the United Nations to play an important role in Cambodia as proposed in Australia's plan?

In regard with the three issues discussed at the moment, we note that the two early questions are of vital importance and also the cause of a danger to be faced by Cambodia and the Cambodian people. As for the third question, it is related to the protection of the people against the danger posed by the two previous issues. As such, we can assume that the third question concerning a UN role is the most important one.

Moreover, we have recently been informed that all of the Cambodian parties except the Hun Sen party have fully agreed to the principle of the UN role. This is because they unambiguously realize that the United Nations is a trustworthy organization capable of maintaining security for the Cambodian people. Can we take for granted that the Hun Sen side is sincere in talks aimed at resolving the Cambodian problem? As far as we can recall, Hun Sen stated that he accepted a UN role but that it should not be extensive. Hun Sen pointed out that the UN role should be insignificant and that a UN force is not necessary while he agreed to preserve all the armed Cambodian factions.

The Voice of the Khmer, which represents the anxious Cambodian people, wishes to ask why Hun Sen wants to maintain the forces of all the Cambodian parties and reject a UN force in Cambodia. Is this not an intention to create a continued armed conflict among the Cambodians, particularly between the patriotic Cambodians and the Cambodians among whom the Hanoi Vietnamese are hidden? We still well remember that Hun Sen fears the Khmer Rouge and wants to prevent them from regaining power.

If so, why does Hun Sen want the Khmer Rouge to keep their weapons and reject the UN force for the protection of the Cambodian people? If Hun Sen were adamant on this point by himself or by respecting the Hanoi authorities' order, it would be a big mistake on his part against the well-being of the people at present and in the future. However, VOK hopes all Cambodian parties will consider the interest of the nation and people paramount in the continuous process of seeking a solution to the Cambodian problem.

AFP Reports Khmer Rouge Destroy Bridge

BK0705111490 Hong Kong AFP in English 1047 GMT 7 May 90

[Text] Phnom Penh, May 7 (AFP)—The Khmer Rouge has blown up a bridge on the key road linking the Cambodian capital with the town of Kompong Thom in an apparent bid to isolate the provincial seat, aid workers said here Monday [7 May].

Guerrillas of the communist resistance had destroyed the bridge at Kompong Thmar, some 160 kilometres (100 miles) south of Kompong Thom, overnight Saturday, the aid workers based in Kompong Thom said here. The 150-kilometre (90-mile) road link between Phnom Penh and Kompong Thom was effectively blocked to all vehicles, bar four-wheel drives, just ahead of the rainy season. The aid workers said that the bridge attack was apparently aimed at furthering a resistance plan to isolate the town of 10,000 people. Officials have said that the town has come under sporadic rocket fire from the guerrillas, while the aid workers said the sounds of fighting around the city could be heard everyday, including artillery and light weapons fire.

But a senior official said here Monday that there was no danger of the Khmer Rouge totally cutting off or capturing the city. Hor Nam Hong, an advisor to Prime Minister Hun Sen, said that the area command had learnt when the Khmer Rouge and troops of its non-communist ally, the Khmer People's National Liberation Front, captured the district seat of Stoung, west of Kompong Thom, early last month. Mr. Hong did not elaborate but said that the military commander in Kompong Thom was ready to beat off any attack by the resistance on the provincial capital, which lies on a crucial highway linking Phnom Penh to Siem Reap in northwest Cambodia. He said that there was no danger of the town falling.

The government recaptured Stoung, about 60 kilometres (35 miles) west of Kompong Thom, shortly after launching an attack on April 24 and has reportedly been carrying out mopping up operations against the guerrillas who fled. A government official said that the fall of Stoung came "as a result of negligence" and that its capture was "worrisome." The former commander of the central Cambodian region of Kompong Thom was reportedly dismissed after the failure at Stoung, which was sacked by the Khmer Rouge, according to officials.

Government Troops, Khmer Rouge Clash 6 May

BK0705012590 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 7 May 90 p 2

[Text] Aranyaprathet—Khmer resistance and Heng Samrin forces fought with artillery and mortar along the Thai-Cambodian border about 15 kms southwest of the district town in Prachin Buri Province yesterday morning. The fighting between Khmer Rouge forces commanded by Mit Choktiap of Division 450 and the Heng Samrin forces took place in two villages, Ban Dong Aranh and Ban Kouo Koup close to Highway 5 between Poipet and Sisophon Province about 10 kms inside Cambodia from the border. The fighting began about 5 a.m. and stopped around 8 a.m., but is expected to resume today.

Mit Choktiap claimed his men were able to kill three Heng Samrin troops and wound about six others and only five of his men were wounded. The commander said about 150 men were sent to ambush the military units of Heng Samrin forces with 122 mm and 130 mm artillery and mortars, in an effort to destroy the Highway No. 5 connection used to transport consumer goods and foreign cigarettes to Phnom Penh and two black markets along the Thai-Cambodian border. Two markets were opposite Ban Pa Phai and Ban Khok Sabaeng in Aranyaprathet.

Sihanouk's Leadership Statement Criticized

BK0505085190 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1300 GMT 4 May 90

[Station commentary: "From the Heights to the Depths"]

[Text] The so-called Voice of the Khmer station recently broadcast Samdech Sihanouk's statement saying he is above all the Cambodian parties in order to assist the Cambodian motherland. The station added that to assist the motherland, the people, and Cambodia's struggle, the samdech has decided to be above and not involve himself with any Cambodian parties. It said he has decided to keep only his title as president of Cambodia.

Listening to his statement on the radio station, one gets the idea that the exiled king is at the height of his luck because, for the past 11 years, the Cambodian people, who are being revived, have never elected or chosen the samdech as president. Therefore, his royal title must have come from god or represent the gratitude of the Pol Pot clique for the samdech's shamelessness in acting as a lawyer to defend in every international arena the ringleaders of murderers whose hands are stained with the blood of over 3 million Cambodians. Our people always wonder at which presidential palace the samdech is staying—in a sanctuary, in Beijing, or in Pyongyang? If any of these is the case, can the president solve the people's suffering and hardship inside the country?

Samdech Sihanouk is overboasting. People still clearly remember that between 1955 and 1970, Samdech Sihanouk was elevated by sycophants to be the father of everything. He was so high that he had nowhere to go when Lon Nol staged a coup d'etat and deposed him on 18 March 1970. Following the 7 January 1979 liberation day, when the surviving Cambodian people were being revived, the samdech was elevated to be a lawyer to defend Pol Pot at the United Nations by twisting the truth about Cambodia.

In 1982 in Kuala Lumpur, the samdech's prestige was again at the forefront; he was put at the head of the tripartite Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea to cover up Pol Pot's stench. Since then, although he has many times capriciously resigned, Samdech Sihanouk has not given up his royal and lofty honor. Despite the knowledge that this is just a symbolic title to bring the Pol Pot regime to massacre the Cambodian people for the second time, the samdech is very pleased with the title because if he refused it, and given his age, when can he be president?

No one is surprised that statements or promises made by this king are ever listened to or carried out by his subordinates. The samdech frequently admitted that he has to check first with Khieu Samphan, the ringleader of murderers. The French news agency AFP has disclosed that, referring to the forthcoming talks in Tokyo between Comrade Hun Sen and Samdech Sihanouk, the samdech said perhaps it would be useless because the Khmer Rouge will not abide by any decision taken; China too will do the same. The samdech added that the talks are not really necessary because of his allies; even his own troops might not necessarily respect him.

This clearly shows that Samdech Sihanouk has only the lofty royal title; in terms of royal power, the samdech has none. Therefore, the Cambodian people would like to ask the samdech that in this case, why does he continue to elevate himself up to the clouds since his destiny is being used without his knowing it. Recent reports from Tokyo said that Pol Pot said Sihanouk is like a flower pot which attracts our hand to it. This Pol Pot statement shows that the Khmer Rouge have always used Sihanouk's role to implement their dark designs.

Phnom Penh Starts Campaign To 'Sweeten' Image

BK0605040090 Hong Kong AFP in English 0140 GMT 6 May 90

[By Leo Dobbs]

[Text] Phnom Penh, May 6 (AFP)—The Cambodian Government hopes to sweeten its image in the West with a fledgling press campaign aimed at explaining its policies and countering a well-oiled resistance propaganda machine. The campaign is being spearheaded by overseas Cambodians with links to Phnom Penh regimes before the genocidal Khmer Rouge rule from April 1975 to January 1979. It seeks to inject balance into the world view on the Cambodian conflict and its principal players.

Kek Galabru, whom Phnom Penh Premier Hun Sen has appointed to head the government's overseas press office in Paris, said here that most of the information disseminated in the West about Cambodia was one-sided. She said that the tripartite resistance benefitted from a well-financed and organised press network with offices in most European cities and the United States. She also charged that the Khmer Rouge, now the military muscle in the resistance, had used the offices of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) to spread its propaganda. Cambodia's official SPK news agency operates English- and French-language services but mainly to socialist nations, while Radio Phnom Penh has only a regional audience.

In a bid to capture a wider audience, Dr. Galabru, who also holds French nationality through her marriage to a senior diplomat, launched a four-page French-language bulletin on April 17 to coincide with the 15th anniversary of the start of Khmer Rouge rule. The first edition of "Lettre du Cambodge" (Letter from Cambodia) was sponsored by Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and "old friends" of the cash-strapped Cambodian Government in the West. Its inaugural print run of 1,000 copies was distributed to embassies, the media and NGOs.

Dr. Galabru, whose father was an advisor to resistance leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk until the latter joined forces with the Khmer Rouge in 1982, said the press office's aim was "to give true information concerning Cambodia—what it is right now." This included spelling out proposals for peace by Phnom Penh and other nations such as Australia, and stressing the government's opposition to any power-sharing in a future administration with the Khmer Rouge as well as its commitment to free and fair elections run under international supervision. It also aimed to dispel the myth, she said, that this country was run by a puppet hard-line and repressive communist regime still propped up by thousands of Vietnamese soldiers. Hanoi announced in September that the last of its troops had left for home after a 10-year stay.

Dr. Galabru said the feedback after the first edition of Lettre du Cambodge had been encouraging with calls from NGOs interested in working here and from overseas Cambodians in Europe and the United States. She hopes to double circulation of the bulletin for May 17 with further financial support from private sources and to eventually set up press offices in other major cities in the West. A Swedish NGO with links to the government has asked her to open a bureau in Stockholm, she said.

In the United States, a former member of the Lon Nol regime toppled by the Khmer Rouge in 1975 has been independently lobbying U.S. opinion and political leaders to change White House policy and recognise the government here. Chhang Song, minister of information from 1973 to 1975, believes that U.S. goals for Cambodia are laudable: prevention of a return to power by the Khmer Rouge, withdrawal of all Vietnamese troops and promotion of Cambodian self-determination by the Cambodian people. But he says that the chosen policy of isolating Phnom Penh resulted from ignorance and a lack of imagination and was "very futile and counterproductive." "The world, particularly the United States, in isolating Cambodia failed to appreciate the evolution and transformation of the government in the past decade," he said.

Mr. Chhang said he was trying to use his knowledge of Cambodia to try and change U.S. policy and persuade it of Phnom Penh's legitimacy through testifying in Congress, writing articles, giving interviews and talking to politicians. He was behind the visits here earlier this year of U.S. Senators Robert Kerry and Charles Robb, both Democrats. Mr. Chhang believes that Phnom Penh should take a further step to seal its legitimacy by setting a date for free multiparty elections supervised by the United Nations or an international panel, a line he is plugging in talks with leaders here. But he admits that the task of changing public perceptions about Cambodia, both among Americans and overseas Cambodians, will be tough faced with the prosperous propaganda machine run by the Khmer Rouge in the United States.

Ney Pena, Delegation Return From Hanoi 4 May

BK0605055490 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 0430 GMT 6 May 90

[Text] The party delegation of the State of Cambodia led by Comrade Ney Pena, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau and chairman of the Central Propaganda and Education Commission, returned to Phnom Penh on the afternoon of 4 May after paying a week-long official visit to Hanoi.

Welcoming the delegation at Pochentong Airport were Comrade Khoy Khunhuor, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau and first vice chairman of the Central Propaganda and Education Commission; Comrade Kim Yin, member of the Central Committee and director general of the Voice of the Cambodian People; Comrade Pav Hamphan, vice chairman of the Central Propaganda and Education Commission; Comrade Kep Chutdema, vice chairman of the Central Propaganda and Education Commission; and many leading cadres from the offices under the Central Propaganda and Education Commission. Comrade Kim Xuan, adviser to the SRV Embassy in the State of Cambodia, was also on hand at the airport.

Official Notes Offshore Oil Exploration Plans

BK0505103090 Hong Kong AFP in English 0946 GMT 5 May 90

[Text] Phnom Penh, May 5 (AFP)—Cambodia hopes to start exploring for offshore oil with the aid of foreign firms from 1991 amid other projects aimed to overcome an energy shortage, a planning official said here Saturday. The Phnom Penh government currently imports about 220,000 tonnes of petroleum products per year from the Soviet Union but needs more than 300,000 tonnes per annum, Un Buntha, a departmental deputy director in the Planning Ministry said. It pays by barter for the oil with goods such as rubber, timber and soybeans, he said, adding that a new deal under negotiation for the 1991-1995 economic plan is unlikely to produce a large increase in imports from the Soviet Union.

Mr. Un Buntha said that under a July 1989 law aimed at encouraging overseas investment in Cambodia the government hoped to sign contracts with major oil companies to search for reserves in the Gulf of Thailand after this year. Contacts had yet to be made with foreign firms, he said, adding that potential overseas investors were concerned over the political situation in a country where the government is battling a tripartite resistance movement.

There are no official estimates of Cambodia's offshore oil reserves, but the French company ELF Aquitaine had carried out exploration work before the brutal 1975-1979 Khmer Rouge rule. Electricity needs are currently met by a single oil-fired power station in Phnom Penh. Mr. Un Buntha said the government plans to double the capacity of this station under the five year plan starting 1991. He also said that it intended to build two hydroelectric power stations in the southern Provinces of Kampot and Kampong Spoe. The Soviet Union had been approached for help in building the plant in Kampot but no accord had been reached.

The government wanted the Western companies who built the Phnom Penh plant to carry out the work to double its capacity though no contacts had been made with these firms, including Australian, British and Japanese interests. But the official said the Cambodian Government did not have the resources to harness the mighty waters of the Mekong River. He said that in a further bid to meet fuel needs the government has been encouraging the private sector to import more oil from the "capitalist region" thought as yet no yet no firms have been licensed to import the commodity.

Border Security Cadres, Combatants Commissioned

BK0705020890 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1300 GMT 6 May 90

[Text] On the morning of 4 May, a ceremony was held at the office of the Control and Logistics Department under the Interior Ministry to confer ranks on outstanding cadres and combatants of the unit under the Border Security Department. A second lieutenant and three (?second-class) sergeants were commissioned. Victory medals of the Council of State were also conferred on 27 individuals, including two first class medals, four second class medals, and 21 third class medals.

Comrade General Sin Son, alternate member of the Political Bureau of the party Central Committee and minister of the interior, highly valued the brilliant feats and spirit of sacrifice and heroism of the cadres and combatants of the border security units. He also gave them additional advice on roles and duties of cadres and combatants and the mode of control and guidance that cadres of all units must implement even more effectively. The comrade general exhorted all cadres and combatants to further enhance their sense of responsibility and strive to successfully implement all tasks assigned by the party and state. Particularly, they should consolidate their past experiences, cooperate with one another, and enhance internal unity among their comrades in arms and between units of the Cambodian People's Armed Forces to gain more vigorous strength in opposing and smashing the three bandit groups, thus firmly ensuring security for our people and our beloved motherland.

Indonesia

Reportage, Comment on Visit by Japan's Kaifu

Dailies Discuss Significance

BK0505084190 Jakarta Domestic Service in Indonesian 0600 GMT 5 May 90

[From the press review]

[Text] JAYAKARTA believes that like earlier visits to Indonesia by foreign leaders, the current visit by Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu reflects Japan's interest in Indonesia and Southeast Asia. The possible reason is that being an archipelagic country with a dense population but without much natural resources, Japan recognizes the great potential of Indonesia's natural resources, including its oil and other commodity goods. In capital investment, the Sakura [cherry blossoms] country is ranked the highest of all foreign investors. Therefore, the daily hopes that during the current visit, Kaifu will not raise the topic of the Indonesian Government's decision to call for a new bidding on the Central Digital Telephone project, which affected the interests of Japan's NEC [Nippon Electric Corporation] because at that time the company thought it had nearly won the contract.

Meanwhile, KOMPAS says that it will be unfair and improper to describe Kaifu's refusal to meet the representatives of an Indonesian nongovernmental organization as his [words indistinct] toward human rights. The problem lies not with his short stay in Indonesia, but more on Tokyo's diplomatic approach, which is different from that of Western countries and which does not want to interfere in the host country's internal affairs.

Assures ASEAN Support

OW0405160490 Tokyo KYODO in English 1520 GMT 4 May 90

[By Tadashi Matsumoto]

[Text] Jakarta, May 4 KYODO—Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu said on Friday that cooperation between Japan and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) is very important for maintaining the peace and prosperity of the Asian-Pacific region in a period of changing international order. Kaifu, who arrived in Jakarta from Colombo earlier in the day on the final leg of a five-nation Asian tour, underscored Japan's commitment to ASEAN in a speech he made at a welcoming banquet hosted by Indonesian President Suharto. Japan will make every effort to promote its relations with ASEAN, the six-nation regional group currently chaired by Indonesia, Kaifu said.

The Japanese premier praised Suharto for his efforts to seek peace in Cambodia through a series of mediation talks between the resistance forces and the Vietnam-backed regime in Phnom Penh.

Turning to the Indonesian economy, Kaifu said Japan will do its utmost to help Indonesia achieve a take-off in economic development.

Suharto, in toasting Kaifu, reminded the Japanese leader of the economic inequality between industrialized and developing nations, saying that inequality always makes the world uneasy.

Substantive talks on bilateral and regional relations will take place at a scheduled two-hour meeting with Suharto set for Saturday morning.

Earlier, Kaifu paid courtesy calls on Suharto and Vice President Sudharmano. Accompanied by his wife Sachiyo and daughter Mutsumi, Kaifu spent 30 minutes chatting with Suharto during the meeting at the Merdeka Presidential Palace. Suharto expressed sympathy with Kaifu on the tight schedule of his nine-day trip, saying "you must be very tired from the tour."

The Japanese premier was greeted by Foreign Minister Ali Alatas at the airport and honored with a 19-gun salute in a welcoming ceremony at the palace.

Kaifu's visit to Indonesia comes amid growing worry by local officials that some of Japan's aid to Indonesia will be diverted to Eastern Europe to bolster economic reforms there. Eastern Europe is also expected to feature in Kaifu's talks with Suharto, according to Indonesia's State Secretary Murdiono.

In his talks with Suharto Saturday, Kaifu plans to outline Japan's aid program to Indonesia for the current fiscal year, Japanese officials said. A full picture of the program will be unveiled at a conference of aid-donor countries to Indonesia that is slated to take place in June in The Hague. Japanese diplomatic sources say the size of the official aid Japan plans to extend to Indonesia in the current fiscal year will remain at the same level as last year.

Indonesia is the largest beneficiary of Japan's aid program. Tokyo committed more than 2 billion dollars in official funds in both 1988 and 1989. The level of foreign aid is not Indonesia's only concern, however. Indonesian human rights groups have urged Japan to accommodate human rights concerns in its aid decisions. Japan's sizeable aid to Indonesia has encouraged the country's economic growth, but such growth also can create monopolies, nepotism and conglomerates, two major Indonesian human rights groups said in a statement handed to the Japanese Embassy Wednesday.

The two groups had sought a meeting with Kaifu earlier this week but he declined the invitation. Japan's ambassador to Indonesia, Michihiko Kunihiro, said the Japanese Embassy is ready to pass the statement on to Kaifu, however. The two groups are the Institute of the Defense of Human Rights and the Indonesian Front for the Defense of Human Rights. Both are nongovernmental organizations with memberships consisting mostly of intellectuals and students.

Kaifu, who has also visited India, Bangladesh, and Pakistan on his current trip, is set to return to Tokyo on Sunday.

Suharto Hosts State Banquet

BK0505070090 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0256 GMT 5 May 90

[Excerpts] Jakarta, May 5 (ANTARA)—Japan wished whenever possible to provide sustained assistance for Indonesia's economic development, which has already entered a very important stage, Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu said during a state banquet given by the president and Mrs. Suharto at the State Palace here last night. Earlier on the same occasion, the president in his address said the bilateral relations between Japan and Indonesia and the current regional and international developments have opened up new dimensions and opportunities.

The president said Japan has the capability and opportunity to develop the new dimensions for progress, welfare, and justice in the world. The head of state added he would use his meeting with Kaifu scheduled on Saturday [5 May] to look into opportunities for the further development of the bilateral relations between the two countries in the years to come.

Kaifu arrived here Friday afternoon for a three-day official visit to Indonesia as part of his tour of several Asian countries started several days ago.

During the dinner also attended by Vice President and Mrs. Sudharmono, cabinet ministers and other top-ranking government officials, the president underlined the importance of Kaifu's current visit to Indonesia as it is made at a time when Indonesia's economy entered an important stage. "We now need new and strong foundations for a sustained development and for the take-off of our development in the following periods," he added. Kaifu's present visit, he said, is also taking place in very dynamic regional and international developments with wide implications.

The president noted that in the last couple of years the world has been undergoing rapid and basic changes toward a more stable and peaceful world. However, the achievement of such a world would depend on the new spirit and aims which should be given to international relations, especially with regard to economic cooperation. He also reminded that the imbalanced relationships between the advanced and developing countries should not be allowed to continue.

The president said Indonesia, after overcoming various serious obstacles and ordeals, has found in the current fifth Five-Year Development momentum for more rapid progress. "We also realize that we are still facing various [words indistinct] as those with regard to expansion of employment opportunities, health, education, housing, income and the development of human resources in general," he said.

Prime Minister Kaifu, meanwhile, noted that under the development policies of the Indonesian Government in the last quarter of a century, a great deal of difficulties had been overcome with impressive success. [passage omitted]

The dinner, followed by a cultural performance, was also marked with an exchange of souvenirs between the president and Mrs. Suharto and their guests. The president presented a "keris" (traditional Japanese dagger) to Prime Minister Kaifu, while the Indonesian First Lady presented Mrs. Kaifu with a tea set and the Japanese couple's daughter, Mutsumi Kaifu, with batik. Earlier, Kaifu and his wife paid a courtesy call on Vice President and Mrs. Sudharmono at their Jalan Merdeka Selatan official residence, and the two sides also exchanged souvenirs.

Suharto, Kaifu Hold Talks

BK0505080690 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0646 GMT 5 May 90

[Excerpt] Jakarta, May 5 (OANA/ANTARA)—President Suharto and visiting Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu here Saturday [5 May] held two-round talks, believed to be focused on bilateral relations between the two countries, besides other regional and international issues.

During the first round of the talks, taking place at the Jepara Room of the Merdeka Presidential Palace, President Suharto was accompanied by Foreign Minister Ali Alatas, Minister/State Secretary Murdiono, Indonesian Ambassador to Japan Yogi Supardi, Director General for Political Affairs Wiryono Sastrohandoyo, Director General for Foreign Economic Relations Puji Kuntarso and Director for Asian and Pacific Affairs Ashari Bur.

The Japanese prime minister during the talks was flanked by nine ranking officials, including Japanese Ambassador to Indonesia Michihiko Kunihiro, Deputy Cabinet Secretary Tadamori Oshima, Deputy Foreign Minister Hisashi Owada, and Director General of Economic Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Shoshichi Kowata.

After the first round talks, President Suharto and Prime Minister Kaifu continued their second round meeting at the palace's banquet hall, during which they were accompanied by other ranking officials. In the second round of talks, which constituted an expanded meeting, the ranking officials who flanked President Suharto also include Coordinating Minister for Finance, Economy, and Industry Radius Prawiro and State Minister for National Development Planning/ Chairman of the National Development Planning Board (Bappenas) Saleh Afiff, while those accompanying Prime Minister Kaifu are expanded to 15 officials.

So far, there were no details on the first round of discussions between the two leaders, which is scheduled to last for about two hours. [sentence as received] Previously, Minister Murdiono has indicated that the discussions would be focused on bilateral, in addition to regional and international issues. According to Murdiono, Prime Minister Kaifu, in his current visit to Indonesia doesn't bring new conditions for Japan's foreign assistance. [passage omitted]

Kaifu Holds News Conference

BK0505124090 Jakarta Domestic Service in Indonesian 1200 GMT 5 May 90

[Text] The Japanese Government will extend special aid worth $1.7 billion to accelerate the national development program in Indonesia. This was disclosed by Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu at a news conference in Jakarta this afternoon. He noted that Japan remains the largest donor to Indonesia, adding that the spirit of dialogue and cooperation among ASEAN countries in economic and cultural fields has contributed to the overall growth of the Asia-Pacific region. The ASEAN economy holds strategic importance to economic growth and supports the prosperity and well-being of people living in the Asia-Pacific region. Therefore, Japan intends to continue its cooperation with ASEAN to develop the region because Japan is convinced such cooperation will in turn safeguard the region's stability and welfare.

Comments on Cambodia Situation

OW0505164790 Tokyo KYODO in English 1128 GMT 5 May 90

[By Tadashi Matsumoto]

[Text] Jakarta, May 5 KYODO—Japan and Indonesia agreed on Saturday to cooperate in their efforts to resolve the Cambodian conflict and bring about peace and stability in Southeast Asia. Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu and Indonesia's President Suharto reached the agreement during a two-and-a-half hour meeting at Merdeka Presidential Palace, a Japanese spokesman traveling with Kaifu said.

Kaifu arrived in Jakarta on Friday on the last leg of a nine-day, five-nation tour of Asia. He is set to return to Tokyo on Sunday.

Speaking at a news conference following his meeting with Suharto, Kaifu said his government will carry out the pledges he made during the current visit, which also took him to India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka.

Underscoring Japan's commitment to ASEAN, a regional grouping currently chaired by Indonesia, Kaifu said Japan will never change the priority it accords ASEAN member countries. "Deep political, economic, social, and cultural cooperation between Japan and the ASEAN member countries is necessary for prosperity and stability in Asia," Kaifu said.

Turning to Cambodia, Kaifu said Indonesian leaders have expressed understanding of Japan's efforts to help mediate a peaceful settlement of the 11-year-old conflict.

Kaifu outlined Japan's initiative on Cambodia in his meeting with Suharto, saying that he hopes that Cambodian Premier Hun Sen and Cambodian resistance leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk will be able to meet in Tokyo as soon as possible. A meeting is scheduled to be held in Tokyo in early June between Hun Sen and Sihanouk in what is Japan's first direct effort to mediate in the conflict. Indonesia has been playing a prominent part in attempts to settle the conflict for several years.

Kaifu told reporters that advance parties from the Phnom Penh government and the Sihanouk-led resistance movement are meeting in Bangkok at the end of this month to discuss the agenda of the Hun Sen - Sihanouk summit in Tokyo.

During the meeting, Kaifu also informed Suharto that Japan will extend 1.7 billion dollars in aid to Indonesia in fiscal 1990, which began April 1. The aid package consists of 1.2 billion dollars in yen-denominated government loans and up to 500 million dollars worth of export-import credits. Kaifu said the Japanese Government is still considering the amount of grant-in-aid and technical assistance to Jakarta in the current fiscal year. The total amount of Japanese aid to Indonesia is expected to remain at the same level as last year's 2.1 billion dollars, Japanese sources said.

Suharto, while expressing his gratitude for the promised aid, urged Kaifu to extend special loans to finance Indonesia's development plan. The Indonesian president said it is crucial for Indonesia to achieve a takeoff for its economy in the current fifth five-year economic development program, now in its second year.

Suharto conveyed an invitation for Japan's Emperor Akihito to visit Indonesia, Japanese officials said. Kaifu, in turn, invited Suharto to Japan as a state guest. Japanese officials said Suharto gave no immediate indication whether he will accept the invitation.

To Offer India-Pakistan Mediation

OW0605042190 Tokyo KYODO in English 0306 GMT 6 May 90

[By Tadashi Matsumoto]

[Text] Jakarta, May 6 KYODO—Japanese Prime Minister Kaifu says he will send a letter to Indian Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh to tell that Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto is ready to discuss with Singh about the bilateral dispute over Jammu and Kashmir. Kaifu, talking with reporters at a party here Saturday night, said he will mail the letter soon after his return to Tokyo on Sunday.

The Japanese Prime Minister attended the party after completing the official schedule of his nine-day trip which took him to India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and Indonesia.

Kaifu said, "I was able to clearly stress importance of cooperation between Japan and the South Asian countries toward creating a new international order."

During two rounds of summit talks with Kaifu in New Delhi last week, Singh said "India will advance two steps forward to pave the way for peace in the region (Jammu-Kashmir) if Pakistan takes one step forward," according to Japanese Foreign Ministry officials.

India and Pakistan have been locked in a decades-long dispute in Jammu and Kashmir, the only Moslem majority state in Hindu-dominated India.

Group Protests Japanese Aid

OW0605050490 Tokyo KYODO in English 0347 GMT 6 May 90

[Text] Jakarta, May 6 KYODO—A group of 20 people staged a demonstration in Jakarta against Japan's economic assistance on Saturday, the eve of Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu's departure for home.

The protest was the first criticizing Japan since a major anti-Japan demonstration in January 1974, when then Prime Minister Kakuei Tanaka was visiting Indonesia.

The group included students, intellectuals, and artists, who assembled in front of a Japanese department store, Sogo, which opened recently. They said Japanese aid destroys Indonesian rain forests. The demonstrators said Japan has extended loan for Indonesian roads to run Japanese vehicles.

Suharto 'Satisfied' With Visit

BK0605063090 Jakarta Domestic Service in Indonesian 0500 GMT 6 May 90

[Text] President Suharto is satisfied with the outcome of his talks with Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu. This was disclosed by Minister-State Secretary Murdiono, who added that the majority of Japanese officials who accompanied the Japanese prime minister were also under the impression that the visit had strengthened mutual understanding and friendship.

Murdiono said this after the president and Mrs. Suharto saw off the Japanese prime minister and his entourage at the Merdeka Palace this morning. In his talks with President Suharto yesterday, Prime Minister Kaifu said his country would continue to pay great attention to Indonesia's economic development. [sentence indistinct].

Prime Minister Kaifu and his entourage left for Tokyo this morning. The Japanese guests were seen off by Foreign Minister Ali Alatas and Jakarta Governor Wiyogo Atmodarminto at the Halim Perdanakusumah Airport.

Kaifu Leaves Jakarta 6 May

OW0605050190 Tokyo KYODO in English 0328 GMT 6 May 90

[Text] Jakarta, May 6 KYODO—Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu left here for home on Sunday winding up a nine-day Asian tour which took him to India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and Indonesia. Kaifu is scheduled to arrive in Tokyo in the evening.

The prime minister held a series of meetings with leaders of the five countries during the tour and promised that Japan will play a greater political role in the South Asian region. Kaifu also pledged to continue economic assistance to those countries.

In a stopover in Bangkok on his way to India, Kaifu also met and agreed with Thai Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan to maintain close contact in order to bring about peace in Cambodia.

Philippines

U.S. Marine Shot to Death Outside Naval Base

Base Security Tightened

HK0505060390 Quezon City ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corportion DZMM in Tagalog 0550 GMT 5 May 90

[Text] A U.S. Marine was killed today by an unknown assailant outside Subic Naval Base. While U.S. authorities refused to reveal the victim's name, local police identified him as U.S. Sergeant John Fredette, who belonged to a fighter attack squadron based in El Toro, California.

According to the Subic Naval Base spokesman Commander Kevin (Mocris), the victim was at the Subic Naval Base for a temporary training program of the Marine attack squadron when the attack took place earlier today. The murder occurs nine days before the start of the exploratory talks on the U.S. bases on 14 May.

Following the attack, security for all personnel inside U.S. bases in the Philippines has been tightened while travels to other parts of the country have been cancelled.

Communist Rebels Suspected

HK0505042590 Hong Kong AFP in English 0414 GMT 5 May 90

[Text] Olongapo, Philippines, May 5 (AFP)—A U.S. Marine sergeant was shot dead in this northern city just outside Subic Naval Base, Philippine police and U.S. military spokesmen said here Saturday. Olongapo police said that Marine sergeant John Fredette was shot in the back of the head late Friday while walking alone on a side street just off the city's entertainment district. He was in civilian clothes and on liberty when shot dead by an unknown attacker, the police said.

U.S. military spokesmen announced Saturday over the U.S. Armed Forces television station that the victim was a member of Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 323 based in El Toro, California. The unit had been on a temporary training mission at Subic Naval Base. They did not identify the Marine or say who his attackers were.

Police sources said they were not certain who the gunman was but noted that they had received intelligence reports that communist guerrillas planned to kill an American in this city before May 14, when Washington and Manila are scheduled to open talks on the future of U.S. bases in this country.

U.S. military spokesmen said they had cancelled all off-base leave and liberty for U.S. personnel and their dependents in this country as a precautionary measure following the killing.

The communist insurgent New People's Army (NPA) has killed five U.S. military base personnel since 1987, including U.S. military adviser, Colonel James Rowe, who was ambushed in Manila last year. The NPA, which has been demanding the removal of U.S. bases in this country, is believed to be planning more attacks to protest the scheduled talks on the future of these bases.

The lease for Subic, U.S. Clark Air Base and other U.S. military facilities in this country is due to expire in 1991 and the talks are aimed at deciding whether to extend their lease or not.

'Eyewitness' Sees Two Filipinos

HK0505082490 Hong Kong AFP in English 0814 GMT 5 May 90

[Excerpts] Olongapo, Philippines, May 5 (AFP)—A U.S. Marine was shot dead here overnight in what police fear was a strike by communist guerrillas, raising tensions ahead of crucial talks on the future of U.S. military bases in the Philippines.

Police in this northern port city which hosts Subic Naval Base said Marine Sergeant John Fredette was shot in the back of the head late Friday while walking alone on a side street in the bar district frequented by Americans. Sgt. Fredette was in civilian clothes and on liberty when shot dead by an unknown attacker, Olongapo police said. [passage omitted] Police records showed that the Marine, who was at Subic for a temporary training mission, was killed at 11:45 P.M. Friday (1545 GMT).

An eyewitness, 17-year-old housemaid Annie Custodio, told reporters that she saw two Filipino men running away from the fallen body of Sgt. Fredette after the shooting. She said she was about to enter a house about 15 meters (yards) across the street from the scene of the killing when she heard a gunshot. When she turned her head she saw two short men in T-shirts running away.

No Americans besides base security personnel were seen early Saturday in this bar-filled city, which derives most of its income from the base.

U.S. base authorities ordered all military personnel who had checked into local hotels to go into the base, while those living in rented homes throughout the city were told to stay put.

U.S. Naval Investigative Service officers were seen at the Olongapo police station pursuing their separate probe. Filipino military officers in charge of Subic's perimeter security were also taking part in the investigation.

Police questioned a 24-year-old bar girl, Edna Velasco, who said she was a friend of the victim but that the last time they met was on May 1. She said the Marine told her he arrived at Subic on April 29.

Police Launch 'Saturation Drive'

HK0605061090 Hong Kong AFP in English 0604 GMT 6 May 90

[Text] Olongapo, Philippines, May 6 (AFP)—Police in this northern city beside the U.S. Subic Naval Base swept the area overnight, searching for two men who murdered a U.S. Marine, authorities said Sunday.

Police spokesmen said they had picked up 36 men for questioning and record-checking in their "saturation drive." They said some of the men would be put in a line-up where a possible witness to the killing might identify them, but would not say if they had yet identified any suspects.

A 10-year-old boy reportedly saw the two gunmen fleeing the scene after they shot Gunnery Sergeant John Fredette of California in the back of the head late Friday as he was walking just outside this city's entertainment district. Police withheld the name of the boy. A housemaid told police Saturday she also saw two gunmen fleeing the scene when she entered a house across the street. But she did not see their faces clearly, police said.

Sgt. Fredette was visiting here on temporary assignment at nearby Subic Naval Base.

Meanwhile, businessmen near the base complained that a ban on military liberties, imposed after the murder, was hurting business. "The Americans are panicking. Over there, they have killings every day, but here, we've just had one," complained a Filipino policeman irritated by the economic slowdown.

The killing occurred nine days before the opening of talks in Manila on the future of U.S. military bases in the Philippines. While no group immediately claimed responsibility for the killing, police investigators said they suspected the communist insurgent New People's Army (NPA).

Talks on the future of Subic and nearby Clark Air Base, along with four smaller support facilities, were set to start in Manila on May 14. The NPA were believed to have been planning attacks to protest the talks. Communist insurgents and leftist groups have long led the campaign for the removal of U.S. military bases in this country.

Local police said they had earlier received intelligence reports that the NPA, which has urban liquidation teams as well as countryside guerillas units, would kill an American in Olongapo before May 14. Two suspected NPA hit men, identified as Noel Mallari and Bonifacio Cruz, had been spotted in the city and were being sought, a report from the metropolitan police command said. Since 1987, the NPA has claimed responsibility for the killing of five active-duty U.S. military personnel and employees, including U.S. Army Colonel James Rowe, who coordinated weapons aid to Manila. U.S. officials refused to comment on possible NPA involvement.

The Hawaii-based U.S. commander in chief for the Pacific indefinitely cancelled liberties Saturday for all armed forces stationed in the Philippines. Base authorites on Saturday ordered military and civilian personnel and their dependents to return to Subic and Clark bases, or stay in their homes off base. The bases host 17,000 military personnel.

U.S. servicemen, servicewomen and employees stationed there had been barred from travelling unnecessarily to Manila since March when the NPA marked its 21st anniversary with a vow to attack more Americans.

Olongapo has long been economically dependent on the patronage of U.S. service personnel assigned to or visiting Subic. The city has already begun to feel the effects of the ban on U.S. leaves and liberties. Except for a handful of retired U.S. military personnel and civilian tourists, there were no Americans seen late Saturday in the normally bustling entertainment district. The city remained peaceful that night, but several bars and restaurants did not bother to open.

Leonardo del Rosario, an old-time bar owner said businesses were losing close to a million pesos (43,800 U.S. dollars) "every night that the U.S. base gates are closed." Romy Continuado, manager of the Olongapo Casino said business declined by 60 per cent after the killing. Even restaurants, which do not rely too heavily on patronage from Americans, suffered a drop in customers. "There is a marked decline of 20 per cent in the number of customers" at the Corkroom Attic Pizzahouse, said manager Christy Pacheco. In Angeles City, near Clark, local businessmen in the entertainment district also complained their earnings had dropped by at least 70 per cent. Even Australian tourists, who have flocked to Angeles in recent years, were keeping out of the bars for fear of being mistaken for Americans by communist assassins, local businessmen said.

NPA Responsibility Disputed

HK0705020190 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in English 2300 GMT 6 May 90

[Text] Police hunting the killers of a U.S. Marine sergeant landed up dozens of suspects. Meanwhile, 40,000 American military personnel and their families were confined to their bases by a U.S. travel ban. Police in Olongapo City said they had brought in for questioning more than 30 people after suspected communist guerillas shot dead Sergeant John Fredette outside the U.S. Subic Bay Naval Base late on Friday. He was shot in the back of the head in Olongapo, nine days before the opening of talks between the United States and the Philippines on the future of American military bases in the country. No group or person has so far claimed responsibility for the killing.

Menawhile a top constabulary official disputed reports that communist hitmen killed a U.S. Marine sergeant Friday night while walking along the Olongapo City's red light district. Constabulary Chief of Staff and PC-INP [Philippine Constabulary-Integrated National Police] Intelligence Chief Brigadier General Gerardo Flores said that it is still inconclusive as the Olongapo City Metrodiscom [Metropolitan District Command] headed by Colonel Ric Arthur Torres are still conducting a full dress investigation into the case. However, Flores assured that the Metrodiscom is pursuing all possible angles including a love angle history.

Last Friday, Sergeant John Fredette, a member of the Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 323 based in El Toro, California was walking along Henson Street in East (Dapinac) district when a drunk man approached him from behind and shot him in the head at close range.

Two Suspects Arrested

HK0705074190 Hong Kong AFP in English 0732 GMT 7 May 90

[Text] Olongapo, Philippines, May 7 (AFP)—Two principal suspects in the murder of a U.S. Marine sergeant here last weekend have been arrested, police said Monday. William Burke, 24, a part-American resident of Cebu Province south of here, and Reynato Angeles, 33, from nearby Bataan Province, were taken to Manila for questioning at the national police headquarters, police spokesmen said. Mr. Angeles was believed to have fired the shot that killed Marine Sergeant John Fredette, they added. Police gave no other details about the suspects, but the state-run Philippine News Agency (PNA) said the two were "drug addicts," without elaborating.

Investigators earlier said they were focusing their inquiry on the involvement of communist guerillas demanding an end to the U.S. military presence in the country, but no one has so far claimed responsibility.

Sgt. Fredette's valuables, including his wallet and watch, were untouched after his killing.

Police said the two suspects fit descriptions of the men seen running away from the fallen body of the marine, who was shot dead shortly before midnight Friday in this port city off the U.S. Subic Naval Base. Four eyewitnesses positively identified them early Monday, police said.

Sgt. Fredette, assigned to a Marine combat unit in California, was on temporary assignment in Subic when he was gunned down.

He was the ninth U.S. citizen, including six active-duty military personnel, murdered in the Philippines since late 1987. The communist rebel group New People's Army (NPA) claimed responsibility for the five soldiers killed previously.

Philippine police swept neighborhoods in Olongapo over the weekend for the killers, and U.S. Navy experts coordinated with them in the investigation.

In Manila, U.S. Embassy Charge d'Affaires Kenneth Quinn told journalists that the mission had taken "appropriate precautions" to protect its nationals in the country and was working closely with the Philippine Government. He stressed that it was "impossible to provide perfect security" for an estimated 100,000 Americans living in this former U.S. colony, including 17,000 servicemen stationed at Subic and the nearby Clark Air Base.

U.S. officials refused to comment on police suspicions that Sgt. Fredette's murder was the handiwork of the NPA, military arm of the banned Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP).

Mr. Quinn said the killing of Sgt. Fredette "won't have any effect" on the exploratory talks later this month on the future of the U.S. bases in the Philippines, whose current lease expires September 1991. The talks are set to start in Manila on May 14. They will serve as preliminaries to full negotiations on a new bases treaty sought by Washington to ensure its continued military presence in the country.

Mr. Quinn said U.S. officials in the Philippines had been "on a high state of security readiness for some time" even before the latest killing. "Until we know a bit more about it, it won't be prudent to speculate who did it or why. We always have to consider the possibility that the NPA did it. There have been threats against us. But there's no definitive judgment on that now," Mr. Quinn said.

General Says U.S. Had Prior Knowledge of Coup

HK0705093390 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 7 May 90

[By Cesar Chavez—italicized portion in English]

[Text] The U.S. Government was aware of the December coup plan and, had it been sincere and informed the Philippine Government of the Reform the Armed Forces Movement's [RAM] plan, the coup attempt would not have been launched.

In a hearing by the Senate Committee on National Defense, Subic Base Command deputy commander Brigadier General Artemio Tadiar said that a week before the December coup was launched, about 20,000 American soldiers arrived in Subic Naval Base, including 5,000 U.S. Marines and two U.S. battle carrier groups—each comprising 6,000 to 7,000 soldiers—with accomapnying destroyers, jetfighters, battleships, submarines, and sophisticated armaments. Tadiar said the arrival of the 20,000 soldiers was unusual because this did not happened even after the 1986 People's Power Revolution. According to Tadiar, one of the two battle carrier groups came from the U.S. base in Japan while the other came from the U.S. Pacific Fleet which had just ended war exercises with the Thailand Armed Forces. In questioning General Tadiar, Senate Defense Committee Chairman Senator Ernesto Maceda said:

[Begin recording] *What I am trying to determine here in my mind is that you said these two battle groups with 5,000 Marines is unusual, one week before the coup or on the coup. So, you know, there is a suspicion and complaint at the same time that the U.S. intelligence authorities knew of this coup beforehand. And this, items such as these, lend some substance to the suspicion. They cannot just be here on accident because it takes some time to prepare. So, if they did come here because of the coup, the implication here is they knew very much beforehand the possibility of this coup happening on such and such a day.* [end recording]

The senator also asked the Armed Forces of the Philippines [AFP] to tightly monitor the entry of U.S. military troops in their bases at Subic and Clark.

Tadiar said that during the December coup he spoke with Rear Admiral Roger Rich and told him that the U.S. should not meddle in the country's internal problems. He also said that the intelligence sharing between the U.S. Government and the Philippine Armed Forces only pertains to the insurgency and not to the activities of rebel soldiers. He added that members of the Philippine Marines were at the time convinced about taking part in the coup. Tadiar was formerly commandant of the Philippine Marines before Aquino took power in 1986.

The Senate Defense Committee is set to investigate former Southern Luzon Command [Solcom] chief Brigadier General Alejandro Galido on 24 May after his court testimony. It will be recalled that the Senate is probing Galido's expose in which he alleged that the U.S. offered help to the rebel soldiers during the December coup.

Meanwhile, former Solcom spokesman, Colonel Hernani Figueroa, denied that Galido was an agent of AFP Chief of Staff General De Villa tasked to track down the activities of the RAM.

Aquino Opposes U.S. Bases as Venue for Talks

HK0405102390 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 4 May 90

[Text] The exploratory talks on the U.S. bases may be held in Tagaytay because both the Philippine and U.S. panels want to ensure the security of the panelists. This was revealed by reliable sources from the Department of Foreign Affairs [DFA].

Earlier, the U.S. panel rejected the Philippine International Convention Center and the Philippine Heart Center as venues for the talks, claiming the two sites are accessible to demonstrators which could affect their security. The Americans want the talks held in a remote and quiet place. Their negotiators worry about daily demonstrations during the exploratory talks. Hence, DFA sources said that the talks may be held inside the building of the Development Academy of the Philippines which boasts complete facilities.

Earlier, Health Secretary Alran Bengzon, chairman of the executive committee on the U.S. bases, proposed that the talks be held at the Philippine Heart Center, but the suggestion was turned down by the U.S. panel, citing the proximity of the site to the University of the Philippines where leaders of cause-oriented groups come from.

Meanwhile, President Corazon Aquino opposes the holding of Philippines-U.S. bases exploratory talks inside either Clark Air Base in Olongapo City or Subic Naval Base in Zambales. She added that she did not think it would be wise to hold the talks inside U.S. military bases. She also stressed that the talks will determine whether negotiations for a new U.S. military bases treaty are necessary or not.

The Philippine and U.S. Governments are to discuss the future of U.S. military bases in the country on 14 May. Heading the Philippine panel is Foreign Affairs Secretary Raul Manglapus while his U.S. counterpart is former U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs Richard Armitage.

Laurel Warns Against 'Obliteration' of Opposition

HK0705053190 Manila PHILIPPINES NEWSDAY in English 7 May 90 p 3

[Text] Zamboanga City—Vice President and NP [Nacionalista Party] President Salvador H. Laurel Sunday warned that the Aquino government's effort "to obliterate the democratic opposition is a mistake that will only pave its replacement by the violent opposition."

Laurel was reacting to the David Commission hearings over the weekend where three government witnesses tried to implicate him to the December failed coup based on an alleged statement he made in Hong Kong. Charges of rebellion complexed with murder had been filed against NP secretary general Juan Ponce Enrile, NP national treasurer Vicente G. Puyat and NP vice president for Mindanao Homobono Adaza.

"This latest attempt to implicate me is part of an orchestrated plan to make the democratic opposition as the scapegoat of President Aquino's failure to address the root causes of the national unrest. It is a clear attempt to deflect responsibility for the energy crisis, rising costs, recurring coups, disunity and other worsening problems brought about by President Aquino's inept and corrupt administration," he said.

"But the government is committing a serious mistake," Laurel told a big group of Jaycees, Kiwanis and Rotarians here.

Stressing that "a non-violent and democratic opposition is essential to a democracy," he said the "obliteration of the non-violent political opposition will only lead to the emergence of the violent opposition as the only alternative to this bungling and corrupt regime."

He added: "Given the present crisis, the Aquino government must change or be changed—and the democratic opposition is now the only hope for peaceful change."

"Never has an administration been so saddled with so many problems and challenged by simultaneous violent threats from the left and the right. If change is indeed inevitable and desirable, let such change be done through peaceful and non-violent means. Let it be done democratically through the democratic opposition," Laurel said.

He also said that what President Aquino needs are "correct decisions, not more emergency powers. She should look for better advisers."

PDP-Laban To Name Pimentel 1992 Candidate

HK0405095590 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 4 May 90

[Text] Senator Aquilino Pimentel Jr. will be formally named as the 1992 presidential candidate of his party, PDP-Laban [Philippine Democratic Party-Struggle of the Nation]. According to Cagayan de Oro City Mayor Pablo Magtahas, a resolution declaring Pimentel as the official candidate for the 1992 presidential elections will be adopted by the party at its eighth national congress to be held in Laoag City from 12 to 13 May.

It will be recalled that the Manila council of PDP-Laban passed a similar resolution endorsing Pimentel as the party's presidential candidate. This was followed by other cities, towns, and provinces where the party's councils are active. Two days ago, a study released by Associated Editors named Pimentel as one of three frontrunners for the 1992 elections. The other two men are LDP [Struggle of Philippine Democrats] stalwarts House Speaker Ramon Mitra Jr. and Liberal Party Senate President Jovito Salonga.

According to Cagayan de Oro City Mayor Magtahas, if Pimentel is victorious, it will be the first time that the country will have a president from the Mindanao region.

Before becoming the secretary of local governments and a senator, Pimentel was a mayor, constitutional delegate, and assemblyman of Cagayan de Oro City.

Honasan Gives Interview on Political Situation

HK0705054390 Manila PHILIPPINES NEWSDAY in English 7 May 90 pp 1

[Interview by newsman Cecilio T. Arillo with renegade Colonel Gregorio B. Honasan]

[Text] Cecilio T. Arillo [CTA]: I was told by one of the officers I interviewed last night that this camp is more than 50 hectares, well-secured and cannot be breached even by airborne entry. Do you feel safe here?

Gregorio B. Honasan [GBH]: It's 92 hectares to be exact, and it's not true that it cannot be breached. It can but it's not easy to enter here without my permission. The camp is owned by taxpayers who support our cause. We're far from Manila.

CTA: How big is your force?

GBH: I cannot give you an accurate answer because we don't maintain a roster. But there are more than 1,000 officers and soldiers in this camp as you can see and this is only one of three camps that we have in Luzon. We have other camps in Mindanao and the Visayas. Honestly, we keep our strength at a minimum level because of our limited resources. Besides, our strength is not in the underground but above ground.

CTA: What do you mean above ground?

GBH: They are in military camps and police headquarters. Some of them you see patrolling the streets of Manila pretending as if they are our real enemies.

CTA: If this is the situation, how come you are not staging another coup?

GBH: Just like what I said before, a coup is basically a function of clear signals from the people to the military. We listened to them 1986, we listened to them in 1987, we listened to them in 1989 and we are listening to them now.

CTA: How do you validate clear signals and how do you define people?

GBH: We observe, we gather facts and we analyze the political situation. For example, our researchers in the Movement have been lately observing a widespread restlessness over the endless brownouts, low wages, high prices, breakdown of law and order and an uproar over scandals of different shapes, sizes and makes, involving the President, her relatives and cronies. People, by the way, include soldiers, teachers, farmers, government workers, squatters and the jobless. The Aquino regime has a very narrow definition of people.

CTA: You mentioned brownouts, do you have solutions to that?

GBH: We are looking into the causes of power outages. But let me tell you something. Many people do not know that the Cojuangco family has been diverting large amount of power from the Luzon grid to Hacienda Luisita and to a giant alcohol plant owned by a crony who is at the same time Cory's representative to the Chinese community. This alcohol plant in Pampanga supplies majority of the alcohol requirements of the country and its clients abroad. This is one reason why the President cannot fire Abolitiz from the National Power Corporation [NPC]. Another reason is that the NPC used the funds for spare parts to buy a fleet of Pajeros and Nissan Sentras so that a presidential relative will become wealthier.

CTA: When is the next coup?

GBH: You will soon find out.

CTA: How soon is soon?

GBH: Don't worry, we will not leave you in this camp.

CTA: Why did you fail in the last coup?

GBH: The Americans intervened, we had extra luggage, we had poor communications and we relied on the wrong people. We have corrected most of our mistakes and we are confident we will make it next time.

CTA: You have a contingency plan for American intervention?

GBH: Yes and we have several plans to deal with them, including the use of extreme measures.

CTA: How do you describe the political situation, in the country today?

GBH: There's chaos, anarchy, disunity, injustice and there's rampant graft and corruption. These are all consequences of a leadership vacuum. Mrs Aquino is only pretending that she is running the government by delivering carefully-crafted speeches and by issuing incoherent orders.

CTA: How do you describe President Aquino?

GBH: Worse, we cannot allow her to continue plundering and bleeding the country to death. And it is imperative that we remove her because she is running this country with hatred and vindictiveness. Besides, she is a traitor to her own people.

CTA: You described Mrs Aquino worse than Marcos and you accused her of so many things, how then do you answer the charges against you that you are a power-grabber, that you killed a lot of people, that you are an enemy of the state, etc.?

GBH: We should be judged along parameters of the consistency. What we were doing before, during and after the EDSA [Epifanio Delos Santos Avenue] revolt. We were, and still are, demanding reform and a clear direction for our country. Because if we use the same parameters that they are using to describe us, we can also hold them responsible for all the deaths, numbering nearly 4,000 every year, as a result of the insurgency that Mrs Aquino and her boot-licking generals are managing by trial and error. In fact, the failure of her government to come up with an economic agenda is already equivalent to multiple murder and frustrated murder because it perpetuates poverty and other forms of social injustices in this country. We are not power-grabbers. If we were, we wouldn't have given the power we seized from Marcos. Remember that the EDSA revolution happened because of our initiative.

CTA: How do you describe Defense Secretary Ramos?

GBH: He's a first class opportunist and a traitor to the ideals and principles of the EDSA revolution. His following comes more from the civilian sector, particularly those who have not experienced being under him. The military knows him better and that's why he's managing the most fragmented AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] in the history of this country.

CTA: What triggered the breakup of relationship between RAM [Reform the Armed Forces Movement] and Ramos?

GBH: First, he was not really a RAM member. Second, he has his own agenda of becoming the next president and that's why he also betrayed Senator Enrile who saved his ass from Marcos and Ver. Third, he was, and still is, a liar. For example, he lied under oath that he has no mistress and son by another woman. So what else will he not lie about?

CTA: Ramos has recommended to Congress the passage of a law increasing the penalty of rebellion to death, what can you say about this?

GBH: No soldier in his right mind will kill a RAM officer. So Ramos has to devise a new method of killing all of us. It's that simple, otherwise he wouldn't be following up his own recommendation in Congress.

CTA: What do you think of the AFP now?

GBH: It's practically the same as before. Devoid of leadership, rampant graft and corruption at the highest levels, lack of legal, moral and psychological support for the soldiers and their families; mismanagement of resources; lack of political and ideological doctrine; and it suffers from overlapping of functions and responsibilities because of the multi-layered command structure and non-delineation of command function. For example, the whole AFP is exercising police duties when it should not be, under a presidential system of government. This is the reason why we have more abuses against civilians now than before.

CTA: If you are given the chance to manage and run the AFP, how will you do it?

GBH: I will not go into details because this is a highly speculative question. But let me tell you that most of the problems in the AFP require only common sense approaches. For example, we cannot establish discipline in the AFP unless you provide first an economic base for our soldiers and their families in order for them to lead a decent and honorable life.

CTA: How do you view the insurgency problem?

GBH: It's worse and the public has no way of reading or determining the real state of insurgency in the country because the AFP leadership is mired to the body count syndrome and keeps on investing its own stories to hide its incompetence and AFP battlefield losses.

CTA: Can you go into specifics?

GBH: Okay. What is visible to the public is the fighting between the AFP and the NPA like ambuscades, encounters, bombings and Sparrow assassinations in the urban centers. This where the likes of Ramos and De Villa keep on inventing their own stories. For example, when soldiers are ambushed and killed, the AFP will report the incident as encounter or will not report the incident and hide it from the public. So, the public has really no way of finding out the truth simply because it is only the AFP which is counting and reporting dead bodies. In fact, the public has become cynical because these were the same people in the AFP who kept on ranting and raving before the last coup attempt that the RAMboys were no longer capable of staging another coup.

Now, let me explain the invisible or the macro aspect of the insurgency problem. This is the political, social and economic fronts where the Communist Party of the Philippines has built its foundation and has made disturbing gains over the last two decades. We are losing in these fronts simply because no one in the Aquino government is addressing this particular aspect.

Ang katunayan lumalakas ang kaliwa dahil sa halip na bigyan ng lunas ang mga root causes ng insurgency like social injustices ng gobyernong Aquino, lalong tinulugan nito ang mga kaliwa. Halimbawa, mahigit isang libo ang Kliwa na kasalukuyang nagtratrabaho kay Aquino at ang mga Amerikano naman ay nagbubulag-bulagan lang kagaya ng ginawa nila sa Vietnam at Cambodia. [In fact, the left is getting stronger because the Aquino government, instead of stemming off the root causes of insurgency, like the social injustice by the Aquino government, helps the left. For example, over 1,000 leftists are presently working for Aquino, and the Americans are playing blind to this like they did in Vietnam and Cambodia.]

CTA: Is there a chance that you'll be captured?

GBH: Only God knows. But it really doesn't matter even if I am captured because I have always thought that I am expendable. And not only that, we don't operate in a vacuum. Ours is a dynamic organization with a cadre of leaders who can replace anybody who is captured or killed. Besides, the young officers in the AFP are now growing in numbers and are unstoppable.

CTA: You mentioned young officers, are you referring to the Young Officers Union or YOU?

GBH: Yes, YOU has already evolved from a mere cadre of the RAM into a nationwide organization, complete with a leadership core, a research and a study group, a political and socio-economic section and a tactical and a strategic group. The rescue of Billy Bibit was the work of the tactical and strategic group.

CTA: Can you tell me more about YOU, how it operates and where it is operating right now?

GBH: I cannot tell you where its members are, who they are and how many there are. We, elders in the RAM, have become irrelevant because of the existence of these young officers. But I can assure you that they are not children who throw tantrums if they are not attended to. They are highly nationalistic: they observe, they collect, correlate and analyze information on almost everything from garbage to power outage; and they are the type of officers who will not say yes if the answer is no. A few of them were here before you arrived. But they just took a rest because, according to them, they got tired and confused of the endless red alerts in Manila and adjacent areas and the continued propaganda bombardments that the Aquino regime and the Ramos AFP regularly dished out to the public against RAM, YOU and the SFP [Soldiers of the Filipino People].

CTA: What is your vision for this country?

GBH: I want to see this country run and managed by honest and God-fearing people; I want an economic program that will promote full employment and self-sufficiency, allow us to eliminate our foreign debt and to compete internationally. Singapore, Korea, Taiwan and Thailand did it. There's no reason why we cannot do it. Remember that we have become laggards in the Asia Pacific because of indicisive leadership, graft and corruption, too much patronage and the maintenance of an American-type of justice system which is very cumbersome to deal with crime and corruption.

CTA: Do you have a message to our people, the AFP, and maybe the President?

GBH: To our people: Yours is the only voice we will listen to. Please judge us on the basis of consistency of what we were doing before, during and after EDSA.

To the AFP: Remember our oath "to serve only the interests of our people"—to protect them from internal and external threats, chaos, anarchy and a leadership crisis in our government. Professionalism and loyalty do not mean protecting and obeying the Constitution that has been repeatedly violated by the President and other unscrupulous people in government. Lastly, do not allow yourselves to be an instrument of repression.

To Mrs. Aquino: Resign now and save the country from further ruin!

Thailand

Government To Protest U.S. Ban on Burma Imports

BK0705021190 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 7 May 90 pp 15, 24

[Text] Thailand will protest against a move by the US Senate to ban all Burmese imports—including Thai furniture containing Burmese timber.

Foreign Trade Department deputy director-general Kroekkrai Chiraphaet said over the weekend that the protest note, which would be submitted through US Embassy in Bangkok, would be on the grounds that the US Senate's move ran counter to the principal of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. He said under the Article 11 (2) of GATT, any contracting parties could not ban imports on any agricultural or fisheries products except when deemed necessary to prevent or relieve critical shortages of foodstuffs.

He said GATT's Article 12 states that restrictions may be imposed in order to safeguard its external financial position and its balance of payments. However, there are no GATT regulations allowing contracting parties to impose bans on other countries' imports because those countries did not protect their human rights.

The ministry's move came after US Senate recently approved a bill, S822, sponsored by Democrat Senator (Massachusetts) Daniel Moynihan, to ban all Burmese imports, including logs of Burmese origin. The move, if it becomes law, would adversely affect exports of Thai furniture to the US as most of the raw material is timber cut and imported from Burma. Thailand exports about 2,000 million baht worth of wooden furniture to the US.

The bill is now scheduled to be debated by the US House of Representatives before being tabled before President George Bush for final approval. Mr Kroekkrai Chiraphaet said he was nevertheless confident that the US president would veto the bill.

In related development, the Thai Furniture Association planned to hire American lobbyist to oppose the bill.

Efforts Made Toward Cambodian Peace Viewed

BK0505025490 Bangkok THE NATION in English 5 May 90 p 8

[By Dr Khian Thirawit of Chulalongkon University: "Cambodia: For Whose Benefit?"]

[Text] More than 20 months have passed since General Chatchai Chunhawan became prime minister and began trying in his own way to outsmart ACM [Air Chief Marshall] Sitthi Sawetsila in attempting to bring peace to war-torn Cambodia. As of today, peace is as remote as ever, but Gen Chatchai has succeeded, cleverly, in retaining the positive image of a peacemaker: a very large number of people appear convinced that peace is at hand and that the battlefield in Cambodia is about to be transformed into a marketplace.

During his visit to Japan (April 6-14), Gen Chatchai gave a speech at the "Keidanren" saying that people in Southeast Asia no longer talked about conflict. Japan obligingly responded positively to his appeal that it should consider hosting yet another Cambodian peace meeting... "for a change."

Gen Chatchai deserves applause for his initiatives and energy in talking untiringly about peace in a country which is not his own. However, one may doubt whether he knows what he is doing and for whom. If in fact all of his efforts have miserably failed and if the situation in Cambodia today is worse than when he assumed his premiership 20 months ago, then why is he still so active and so satisfied with his achievements? Is he really seriously concerned about peace for Cambodia?

The history of Thai involvement in Indochinese conflicts is quite revealing. When the independence movements struggling against French colonialism in Indochina were still weak, the Thais under Dr Pridi Phanomyong leadership gave them sanctuary and moral support. Later, when these movements had gained the upper hand, the Thais under Field Marshal Sarit Thanarat and Field Marshal Thanom Kittikachon switched their support. When the weaker Democratic Kampuchea government was pushed out of Phnom Penh by the militarily much stronger Vietnamese, the Thais under the leadership of Gen Kriangsak Chamanan and Gen Prem Tinsulanon strenuously backed Democratic Kampuchea and, later, the Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea

(CGDK). But once again, when the CGDK took the offensive on the battlefield following Vietnam's unilaterally declared troop withdrawal, the Prime Minister's Office under Gen Chatchai thrust itself in front of other foreign policy-making agencies in an attempt to weaken the resistance forces.

The traditional tendency of Thailand to lend support to the weaker parties in conflicts in Cambodia so as to keep the conflicts more in balance likely has the effect of prolonging the wars. However, it cannot be scientifically determined whether these are conscious calculations designed to weaken Thailand's neighbours for the sake of national security or unconscious responses to the external enviroment, i.e. an expression of political culture.

Thai actions and international accommodation of various initiatives raise the question whether Hanoi and Phnom Penh have slipped into the pitfall of Thai logic. Has that party of the conflict changed its public stance from one of total troop withdrawal and national reconciliation to one of total victory gambling on firm Thai support? If so, it may end up on the defeated side in another war of attrition, just as the Americans did. Eventually, Hanoi-Phnom Penh may discern Thailand's true motives but by then, it will be too late.

The current Thai foreign policy posture is elusive. The policy makers are divided into factions, and there are too many vying for decision making and diplomatic roles. The factions differ greatly in terms of background, values, ideological outlooks and level of sophistication. The triumph of one faction may be more apparent than real; clever words may not be matched by deeds. Thus, anyone can keep silent to preserve the uneasy coalition and to muddle through. This is playboy politics; there are no rules nor discipline. The amateurs seek to dominate changing public moods at the expense of established political processes and overall policy objectives.

Gen Chatchai's active diplomacy on the Cambodian issue has no broad based support. The effect of the Cambodian conflict on Thailand's overall national interests is not entirely negative as is often suggested in the mass media. In particular, certain Thai political forces, especially in the military, are not ready for peace at any price as Gen Chatchai seems to want to believe. Thus, we may be sending the wrong signals to key parties in the conflict, especially, we are feeling confident in nearly every domain: the economy, politics and national security, so much so that we may prefer the status quo to any change at all in Cambodia. The factions in Cambodia and those who hope for something better for Cambodia should perhaps be clearly informed that Thailand's commitment to a genuine peace in Cambodia is quite limited and that the recent fuss about peace is due mainly to Gen Chatchai's unconventional personality and internal political rivalries.

Prior to Gen Chatchai's assumption of the premiership, Thailand scored significant credit for its peace making efforts in Cambodia. Although ACM Sitthi Sawetsila, the architect of our foreign policy, has maintained a low profile, out of personal modesty, his success as the foreign minister should not be undervalued. In those years, the status of ASEAN in the international area was enhanced immensely. One of the most salient aspects of the peace making process was the emergence of greater confidence in the value of collective regional diplomatic efforts along with greater mutual respect among ASEAN member states for the foreign policy interests of each state. As things stand now, the lowering of ASEAN's international profile is not the consequence of the resolution of the Cambodian conflict, as some observers once feared, but the result of international and intra-ASEAN differences over how best to proceed now in seeking to resolve the Cambodian problem. Accumulated credits may not have been successfully robbed, but a long progress has been successfully disrupted, if not altogether sabotaged. Gen Chatchai's satisfaction stems not from any positive outcome to his busy efforts, but from his momentary ability to steal the limelight from ACM Sitthi, an historic proponent of peace in Cambodia.

There are a number of Thais who sincerely wish to see peace and independence in Cambodia. There are also a number of Thai politicians who would sacrifice Cambodian interests, for their own selfish political ends. Unfortunately, some foreign activists and governments have also demonstrated a capacity and a will to exploit the Cambodian tragedy. The Khmer are undoubtedly aware of this and should insist more rigorously on their rights to self determination.

As for those who wish Cambodians well, their demands can be none other than peace and independence for Cambodia. Where do we go from here? Here are some possibly crucial considerations.

First, initiatives and diplomacy must be based on objective conditions in Cambodia. The chance for a political settlement depends very much on a complete Vietnamese troop withdrawal from Cambodia. The claimed withdrawal of September 26, 1989 has been exposed as a deception. However, the reduction of the Vietnamese troops was sizable enough to put Hanoi-Phnom Penh on the defensive. This shows that the State of Cambodia (SOC) continues to be weak and is unable to survive without Hanoi's support. The three resistance groups have not always united, but they have recently put aside their differences and cooperated on the battlefield. They have gained additional territory since last October. Sihanouk has demonstrated his determination to regain his lost country by ending his long exile and making "Sereipheap" (Freedom village) his new headquarters. The Party of Democratic Kampuchea [PDK] (Khmer Rouge) under Khieu Samphan seems to have made the greatest advance militarily. Although its general strategy is obscure, it has clearly penetrated deeply into the interior of the country awarding priority to political as well as military work. Its control of liberated areas may be firmer because of political work among the masses. By now the Khmer factions probably appreciate their relative strengths. What is not known is the level and nature of the Vietnamese troop commitments. This continuing Vietnamese presence obstructs a normal political accommodation among Khmer. Thus, first priority must be given to arranging the supervised withdrawal of all Vietnamese forces, including troops wearing Cambodian uniforms and fighting with Phnom Penh forces.

A second consideration is the matter of power sharing. Among the four Khmer factions (assuming all Vietnamese excluded), the Party of Democratic Kampuchea is propably the strongest in military terms; it is accordingly absurd for anyone to demand that it be excluded from a settlement or a new coalition government. Should it accept a status of less than equal partnership, in contrast to the objective reality on the battlefield? That might be hailed as a positive contribution to the peace process. But such an outcome is only conceivable if Prince Sihanouk's position in the power-sharing system is more than equal. In spite of their many differences, the Prince and the PDK have one common language. That is their strong sense of patriotism and nationalism. But even though the PDK might be willing to work under the Prince, its right to participants as an equal partner in an interim coalition government is probably non-negotiable; the survival of the party is at stake. Thus, the efforts of Hanoi-Phnom Penh to raise unrealistic hopes of eliminating the "Khmer Rouge" serve only to undermine the prospects for peace. One of the main problems for peace-making in Cambodia is that there have been too many proposals, each one encouraging Hanoi-Phnom Penh to hope for the impossible. The leadership in Hanoi still adheres to the old approach employed against the French and the Americans. It knows only the language of war, not compromise. Hanoi-Phnom Penh should be instructed in the art of making concessions. A firm stand in support of the just cause of Cambodian independence will also contribute positively to the cause of peace.

Finally, as argued earlier, Thai involvement in the Cambodian peace and interests of the Thai people in Cambodia are inevitably linked to peace and national independence. Diverse political forces might wish to ignore our national interests in favour of more selfish objectives. Currently in the absence of any serious threat to our national security, all manner of opposing views can be freely expressed. Some of these views may have no effect but the overall Thailand's foreign policy will be seen to be aimless and directionless. Hanoi and Phnom Penh will be deluding themselves if they believe for one moment that there are supermen in Thailand who might help them to get rid of the "Khmer Rouge," promote the consolidation of power by the SOC, or endure the current degree of Vietnamese hegemony in Cambodia.

In conclusion, we must recognize the objective conditions of Cambodia and award more respect to the parties involved. Time is, as always, on the side of nationalism. It will be too late for Hanoi and Phnom Penh to offer concessions while the resistance forces gain control of greater parts of the country. Responsibility for the continuing war should be placed on Hanoi and not the PDK (Khmer Rouge) or "Pol Potists." Would it be relevant to ask why the PDK remains strong? The fact that Hanoi has not been willing to withdraw completely from Cambodia would seem to confirm that SOC is unable to defend itself. The fact that Hanoi and Phnom Penh reject an interim coalition government in Cambodia which would arrange internationally supervised, free and fair, elections suggests they are even hesitant to face the PDK at the polls. By these means, Vietnam and the SOC seem to be admitting that the Party of Democratic Kampuchea not only has military strength, but also popular support.

The PDK under Pol Pot made mistakes and its leaders have admitted that. However, if one looks objectively at the postwar conditions of 1975-78 when the PDK held political power, it would seem wrong or at least unwise to castigate the epoch as "genocidal." Whatever happened then, it is not conductive to the peace process now if journalists and the mass media continue to brand the PDK as the "genocidal Pol Potists" in every news dispatch on Cambodia. There has been rhetorical overkill and too much time has been wasted by verbal shooting at the wrong target. For example, the mass media repeatedly employ the phrase "Marxist Khmer Rouge" to identify the PDK long after communism and the Communist Party have been abandoned by the movement.

Do we really believe the PDK continue to espouse Marxism? Or that the Vietnamese-sponsored SOC has genuinely embraced liberal politics? Being honest with ourselves means putting an end to playful ideas. Promoting peace in Cambodia also requires that we stop encouraging rivalry among the Cambodian parties and seek instead, to establish the basis for peaceful cooperation among all of them.

Official Opposes Border Trading Posts Plan

BK0705021390 Bangkok THE NATION in English 7 May 90 p 2

[By Koket Chantaloetlak]

[Text] A senior military official overseeing security in Prachin Buri has voiced opposition to a proposal to open three trading points in the border province to promote trade between Thai merchants and Cambodians. But, while Maj Gen [Major General] Chainarong Nunphakdi, commander of the Burapa Force, said he "personally" disagreed with the proposal, decreasing trade restrictions between border residents of the two countries have resulted in a boom in black market trading at Prachin Buri.

Chainarong said he disagreed with the trading point plan because the security situation at the Thai-Cambodian border was still "unsettled". Chainarong's comment came after it was reported that the Thai military had given the greenlight to Prachin Buri authorities' plan to open three trading points along the border in the province.

The Interior Ministry is considering the proposal, which is strongly supported by Prachin Buri MPs [members of parliament] and local businessmen. Sources said provincial authorities planned to set up the trading points in Aranyaprathet district's Tambon Khlong Luk, Khlong Hat district's Tambon Khao Ta Ngok and Ta Phraya district's Tambon Non Mak Mun.

Chainarong said that as a commander supervising security at the Prachin Buri border, he has reported "the true situation" in the area to his superiors. "We have reported only the truth. We don't inject our opinions in the report. There aren't even recommendations," Chainarong said.

He said though fighting was now taking place deeper inside Cambodia, troops of the pro-Vietnam Phnom Penh had the shown ability to quickly break up resistance forces' control over areas bordering Thailand. He said Phnom Penh forces have stood guard near Tambon Khlong Luk, one of the areas designated as border trading spots.

"There can be problems if the trading points are opened," Chainarong said. The army officer, however, did not mention the mushrooming of black markets along the border where traders seemed to be inspired by reports about the planned opening of legal trading posts.

Local reporters said thousands of Thai merchants and tourists were flocking to illegal trading spots in Ta Phraya, Aranyaprathet and Klong Hat districts. The Thais and tourists buy handicraft and forest products from the Cambodians, who in turn purchase consumer goods and bicycle parts from the Thai side. The black market trading involves Thais and all the four warring Cambodian factions.

In Ta Phraya, Thai merchants trade with Cambodians under the control of resistance leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk and his non-communist ally, the Khmer People National Liberation Front. In Aranyaprathet, meanwhile, trade relations have been developed between local people and families of Phnom Penh soldiers.

A banker in Prachin Buri said the money flowing into and out of banks in the border province now amounted to Bt15 million daily, compared with Bt5 million previously.

Hotels and bungalows in the province are crowded almost everyday with traders from other provinces and tourists. The trade boom is due in part to Thailand's decision to lift a ban on so-called strategic goods, sources said.

"Most of all, traders are excited by signs that the government may soon allow a larger scale of trading, though they are not quite sure whether the three trading points will really be opened," said a source. Authorities said recently they would crack down on the black markets once the legal trading points are established, manned by officials from the Customs, Immigrations departments as well as the military.

Minister Leaves for Trade Talks With SRV

BK0705013590 Bangkok THE NATION in English 7 May 90 p 1

[Text] Commerce Minister Subin Pinkhayan left yesterday for a two-day official visit to Hanoi to assess the impact of Vietnam's new economic reforms on bilateral trade relations. Subin told reporters before leaving Don Muang Airport for his official first trip to Hanoi that he will hold discussions with senior Vietnamese officials including trade and agricultural ministers and a deputy minister.

He said Vietnam has now loosened state control on economy and has given more freedom to the private sector to set up businesses. Representatives from the Thai private sector are also accompanying Sanan [agriculture minister] on this visit, expected to give them an opportunity to exchange information on trade with their Vietnamese counterparts.

During his visit, Sanan is expected to discuss with the Vietnamese side the purchase [of] raw materials by Thailand. Thailand in return would offer to sell that country consumer products and machinery.

A ministry source said Subin would also discuss rice sales to Vietnam which has bought about 500,000 tons of low quality Thai rice at the rate $40-50 per ton during the first four months of this year.

The source said quality being the same, the price of Vietnamese rice is lower than Thai rice. During January-April this year Thailand exported about 1.1 million tons of rice to Vietnam against 1.8 million tons during the same period last year. Subin, the source said, would ask Vietnam to stop underpricing its rice in order to compete with exports from Thailand.

The two-way trade as it stands now is in Vietnam's favour. Thailand has lately increased imports from Vietnam, especially logs, hides, and jewellery. One of the major obstacles in trading with Vietnam, Subin said, is the lack of hard foreign currency among Vietnamese traders.

Revered Monk Said Not Inviting Dalai Lama

BK0405014890 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 4 May 90 p 1

[Text] The venerable Buddhadasa Bhikkhu has told his aide in Surat Thani that he would not invite Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama to visit the Suan Mokphalaram Buddhist Monastery in Chaiya district on his 84th birthday on May 27. The revered monk's decision was seen as a way out for the foreign ministry and the government, which has been caught in a dilemma over whether the Dalai Lama should be allowed into the country.

Former Surat Thani provincial public health officer Dr Prayun Khongwichianwatthana said yesterday that the Buddhadasa Bhikkhu had cited security as the prime concern. The revered monk was quoted as saying that Suan Mok is located in the forest and it might not be safe for the Dalai Lama to travel all the way there. Dr Prayun said the Dalai Lama visited Suan Mok 10 years ago and it may not be appropriate for him to go there again.

Dr Prayun also said that he had already contacted Sulak Siwalak [of] the Sathirakoset-Nakhaprathip foundation, asking him to suspend the invitation for the Dalai Lama to visit Suan Mok. The 84th birthday of the Buddhadasa Bhikkhu is not a spectacular event, he said. Any Thais who wish to join the celebrations are welcome.

On that day, a dharama discussion will be organised, food will not be served and participants will drink only water, he said.

Meanwhile Mr Sulak said that the invitation for the Dalai Lama's visit is pending "an appropriate timing". "We invited the Dalai Lama to Thailand, and not to Suan Mok as has been misunderstood. We have already agreed that the Dalai Lama will not travel to Suan Mok," he said.

"The various celebrations organised throughout this year to mark the Buddhadasa Bhikkhu's 84th birthday are meant to shed light on the essence of the Lord Buddha's teachings in relation to daily life. "The celebration is not meant for pomp and pageantry, but rather to show how by means of religion we can be spiritually guided in the modern world amid consumerism, materialism, dictatorship and greed," he said.

General Asks Laos Not To Accuse Thailand

BK0605085590 Bangkok NAEO NA in Thai 6 May 90 p 3

[Text] Following Lao radio's refuting Thai reports that as many as 40 people died in pro-democracy rallies in Laos in April, Lieutenant General Narudon Detpradiyut, director of the Information Office of the Supreme Command Headquarters, said on 5 May that Thailand has never mentioned the death total nor the details of the Lao pro-democracy rallies. He said that before Laos made an accusation against Thailand, he only mentioned the pro-democracy demonstration to show that Thailand has never been involved in the movement or supported it.

The Thai military spokesman said Laos has made several accusations against Thailand because it suspected that Thailand may have supported the Lao reactionaries, who fled into Thai territory along the Thai-Lao border. In fact, Thailand does not support them, does not give them any weapons, but helps them, as refugees, with only bread and butter, he pointed out.

Narudon went on to say that although the Lao radio has said something bad about Thailand, he would like to reiterate that his intention in mentioning the Lao rallies was simply to confirm that Thailand has played no part in the movement. He therefore wanted to stress a point to Laos: Whatever happens in Laos, Laos must not accuse Thailand of backing the movement.

Asked if any action should be taken against such an accusation by the Lao radio, Lt. Gen. Narudon said he would not take any action. He said the Lao ambassador to Thailand has also denied the charge against Thailand; therefore, there should be nothing else to worry about. However, there might be some repercussions if Laos continues to broadcast the accusation.

Asked by reporters about the development of the pro-democracy rally in Laos, Narudon declined to comment. He said he was not in a position to say anything about it. If he gave details, it would mean he knew about the internal affairs of Laos. What Thailand is trying to do in every way possible is to make Laos not distrust but understand Thailand, concluded Narudon.

Minutes on Cargo Transit to Laos Signed

BK0505042990 Bangkok Domestic Service in English 0000 GMT 5 May 90

["News In Perspective" Feature]

[Text] Thailand and Laos have signed an agreed minutes on the cargos in transit to Laos and formed a joint committee to improve transportation system between the two countries. The agreement was reached at a recent meeting between Thai and Lao officials on transportation and postal service.

Deputy Permanent Secretary for Transport and Communications Sawang Sininthap said cargos passing through Thailand to Laos will be subject to lower transportation cost with more convenience. At present there are six border check points opened for transportation of goods and trade between the two countries, including Tha Sadet and Tha Dua in Nong Khai, Tha Khek in Nakhon Phanom, Mukdahan, Chiang Khong of Chiang Rai Province, and Ubon Ratchathani.

The Laotian side asked Thailand to clearly separate the cargos in transit and those for export and import to be accompanied with the bills of lading and invoices to be completed with details such as the consignments and ports of destination. To prevent tax evasion by Lao importers, the Thai side was asked to provide the bills of lading, invoices, and packing lists to Vientiane authorities as well.

The two sides agreed that two ferry boats crossing the Mekong River are not enough to speed up cargo transportation while the volume of export-import cargos far exceeds their capability. Besides, Lao authorities also charged higher expenses for transportation which the Express Transportation Organization of Thailand, or the ETO, finds it necessary to pass on to cargo owners and shippers.

The Thai side also requested the Lao counterparts to designate car forwarders to process cargos at the border at all times. At the same time, [words indistinct] improve working conditions and speed up cargo handling so that ETO trucks would not be kept waiting at the border for a long period. ETO has proposed to provide (?two more) ferry boats to speed up the transportation across the Mekong River.

The two sides will form a joint working committee to ensure that trade between the two countries continues without interruption. Both sides also worked out the charges to be imposed by the ETO, the fees which will be collected by Vientiane authorities.

Praphat Meets PLO Economic Minister 3 May

BK0305153690 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 1300 GMT 3 May 90

[Text] Deputy Foreign Minister Second Lieutenant Praphat Limpaphan reported to newsmen this afternoon about his meeting with PLO economic minister Abu-'Ala' today. He said that the Palestinian minister asked Thailand to support the Middle East peace movement for negotiations between the PLO and Israel to achieve peace and to prevent another war in the Middle East. He said that the PLO should have its own country in the near future, as over a hundred countries have now given recognition to the PLO. Thailand indicated to the PLO the it supports the UN resolution on a country for the Palestinian people.

The deputy foreign minister said Abu-'Ala' told him that when the Palestinian people have their country, there will be a need to build some 250,000 houses as well as other development projects. Palestine wishes to have Thai labor for that purpose. It also believes that Thailand will become the center in this region to answer to the demand for national development of Palestine. He said that PLO leader 'Arafat called a meeting of some 120 leading Palestinian businessmen from various countries in April. They were told to make trade contacts with Thailand. Palestine plans to buy 1 million tonnes of rice from Thailand this year. It will also import garments, consumer products, canned food, and canned fruit from Thailand in exchange for exports of crude oil and oil products for Thailand.

Commander Warns Against Foreign Encroachment

BK0405015090 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 4 May 90 p 3

[Text] Army Commander-in-Chief Gen [General] Suchinda Khraprayun said yesterday the Army will not allow any foreign force to encroach on Thai territory and any attempted incursion will meet with an immediate tit-for-tat retaliation. Gen Suchinda was speaking to soldiers during a visit to the Third Army Headquarters—the first inspection trip since he became Army chief.

"The Army's policy is that all local unit commanders are empowered to retaliate immediately to the same degree. If 10 rounds of heavy artillery land on our soil, we would return at least 10 rounds or more. If our land is intruded into by one kilometre, we would also go one kilometre across the border. This is what we will do to strengthen the morale of the Thai people," Gen Suchinda said.

"Although threats from neighbouring countries have become less, we soldiers cannot ignore our duty to protect the country's sovereignty as assigned by the people," he said. The Army chief said that even though Laos or Burma now had better relations with Thailand, the Army could not remain indifferent.

"Soldiers have to undergo hard training to always be ready to maintain the prestige and efficiency of the Army," he added. Gen Suchinda reiterated his policy for Army personnel to have initiative, act quickly; and be prudent.

Magazine Reports Plans To Upgrade Armed Forces

BK0605025190 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 6 May 90 p 6

[From the "In Print" column: "Military To Build Up Strength"]

[Text] The latest edition of LAK THAI weekly magazine said the Royal Thai Armed Forces plans to spend over 60,000 million baht ($2,308m) to strengthen the military to meet international standards in defence.

Improving the armed forces is the main intention of Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister Gen [General] Chawalit Yongchaiyut. Gen Chawalit has high hopes to improve the defence system, making the armed forces small but effective. News of plans to upgrade the armed forces, however, is not only good news for the armed forces, but also for arms dealers.

For the Army, it is reported that its five existing infantry divisions; the second, the third, the fourth, the sixth and the ninth, which are all ordinary infantry divisions, will be upgraded to motorised infantry divisions.

A new Third Calvary Division will also be set up in the Northeast.

LAK THAI also reported that the motorised infantry divisions will each have 25 per cent fewer personnel than the ordinary infantry divisions. But each division will have its firepower increased by up to 75 per cent. Each new upgraded division will be equipped with 50 light tanks, 50 main battle tanks [MBT], 18 self-propelled artillery pieces, 440 tracked APCs [Armored Personnel

Carriers], 30 V-150 wheeled commando armoured vehicles, 16 other wheeled armoured vehicles, 24 self-propelled anti-aircraft vehicles and several other kinds of auxiliary vehicles.

The new and highly sophisticated Third Cavalry in the Northeast will be equipped with several kinds of tanks and war vehicles. Earlier, it had been planned to use T-69 tanks and Chinese-made APCs similar to those used by the Second Cavalry Division. But the plan might be changed as the Army is eyeing tanks from other countries.

The US has proposed to sell M-60 main battle tanks to Thailand at lower prices. The bilateral purchase agreement would be handled through the FMS [Foreign Military Sales] programme. It is reported that the Army will buy about 100 MBTs of the M-670 type from the US to equip the Second Cavalry Division.

Regarding the Royal Thai Navy, (RTN) it has plans to buy an aircaft carrier or helicopters carrier and also to modify some vessels to allow British-made Harrier-2 aircraft to land. The RTN also wants to upgrade the naval dockyard at Pom Prachun to be able to repair larger vessels, including two frigates ordered from China.

The Royal Thai Air Forces (RTAF) will also ground its aging A-37 jet fighters, which are mostly stationed at Wing 21 in Ubon Ratchathani Province. The A-37s have been in use since the Vietnam war. They will be replaced by other jet fighters such as the Italian-made AMX [AM-X]. If possible, the RTAF might purchase a squadron of 16 jets of this kind. Earlier the RTAF wanted to buy A-10 or A-7 type jet fighters from the US but the prices were beyond reach.

The present RTAF Commander, ACM [Air Chief Marshall] Kaset Rotchananin, is reportedly interested in Tornado jets from England or Mirage 2000s from France. But these are also expensive, and it is possible that the RTAF will settle for a squadron of F-16s, which will also be modified into combat jets. The modified price of one squadron will be about 12,000 million baht [12 billion baht].

Outsiders might question the necessity of huge arms budgets, as regional tensions have eased, the magazine said.

But Gen Chawalit himself still feels that it is vital to strengthen the armed forces. In a recent speech, he said that building a stronger military force should go hand-in-hand with economic and investment development. Investment and other assets must be granted security and protection. This means that the Thai Armed forces must have the strength to protect the economy and industry.

Chawalit, Suchinda Appointed ISOC Deputies

BK0705070490 Bangkok NAEO NA in Thai 7 May 90 pp 1, 20

[Text] According to a Defense Ministry source, late last month Prime Minister General [Gen] Chatchai Chunhawan, in his position as director for prevention of communist activities, signed an order of the Internal Security Operations Command [ISOC] appointing General Chawalit Yongchaiyut, deputy prime minister and defense minister, as first deputy director for prevention of communist activities, and Army Commander General Suchinda Khraprayun as second deputy director for prevention of communist activities.

The source said that formerly, the post of director for prevention of communist activities belonged to the Army commander. However, Gen. Chawalit relinguished the post to Gen. Chatchai when the latter became prime minister, in order to give Chatchai independence in solving national problems. Gen. Chawalit assumed the deputy director post.

When Gen. Chawalit became deputy prime minister for security affairs, it was decided to set up the post of deputy director for prevention of communist activities for the new Army commander. This second deputy post had never existed previously. The source said that Gen. Chawalit's post will be supervisory, while Gen. Suchinda's duties will be operational.

Gen. Chatchai also appointed General Sanan Sawetserani, secretary to the former defense minister, as ISOC adviser to sort out anticommunist operations and provide recommendations directly to him.

Vietnam

Nguyen Van Linh on PRC Relations, Cambodia

OW0605152490 Tokyo KYODO in English 1516 GMT 6 May 90

[Text] Hanoi, May 6 KYODO—Vietnamese Communist Party leader Nguyen Van Linh said on Sunday he is ready to go to China to help normalize bilateral relations, Japanese sources said. Linh expressed his readiness to visit China when he met for two hours with Michio Watanabe, former chairman of Japan's Liberal Democratic Party's Policy Affairs Research Council, in Ho Chi Minh City. Watanabe, who flew to Vietnam after completing a visit to China, proposed to Linh that he have talks with Chinese Communist Party General Secretary Jiang Zemin to normalize relations between Vietnam and China. The two countries have been at odds since their war in 1979.

"I am ready to go to China," Linh told Watanabe, adding, however, that Beijing might not be ready, the source said. Linh rated highly the Japanese Government's efforts to host a meeting in Tokyo in June between Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen and Cambodian resistance leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk to solve the 11-year-old Cambodian conflict, the sources said. Linh expressed hope that Japan would continue to cooperate in trying to solve the conflict.

It was unusual for Linh to hold talks with a senior Japanese political leader. Watanabe told him that the Cambodian issue is a bottleneck in restoring friendly ties between Japan and Vietnam. Japan has stopped economic aid to Vietnam since the Vietnamese invasion of Cambodia in 1978. Linh said Vietnam has completed the withdrawal of its troops from Cambodia and is seeking peace in order to help facilitate economic reconstruction in his country. He said Vietnam is ready to accept personnel from the United Nations, from the United States, and from other organizations to examine the troop withdrawal from Cambodia. He also said he was sure of having the four warring Cambodian factions at the negotiating table with the backing of related nations, as well as forming a national conciliation government under Prince Sihanouk.

Linh showed a strong desire to develop cooperation with Japan in economic, technological, and cultural fields. He revealed a planned visit to Japan by Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach, and said he himself would like to visit Japan. Linh said his country needs foreign investment to develop oil, aluminum and other natural resources and expressed hope of resuming economic relations with Japan, the sources said. Watanabe will meet with Vietnamese Prime Minister Do Muoi and other leaders on Monday in Hanoi.

Radio Reports Dinh Nho Liem Visits Beijing

OW0505143890 Hanoi International Service in Mandarin 1200 GMT 5 May 90

[From the "Weekly Review of Current Events" program]

[Text] Dinh Nho Liem, first vice minister of foreign affairs of Vietnam, arrived in Beijing on 1 May. During his week-long stay in Beijing, he will work primarily with cadres of the Vietnamese Embassy in China. Vice Foreign Minister Dinh Nho Liem also will meet with Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen to discuss issues relevant to the normalization of Vietnamese-Chinese relations and to issues concerning Cambodia.

Commenting on this issue at a news briefing in Hanoi on 3 May, Ho Thi Lan, spokeswoman of the Vietnamese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, told Vietnamese and foreign journalists that the normalization of Vietnamese-Chinese relations is in the fundamental and long-range interests of the peoples of the two countries, and therefore it should not be obstructed by issues of any third country. She said: The normalization of Vietnamese-Chinese relations will be conducive to the successful settlement of the Cambodian issue. Meanwhile, Chinese Vice Premier Wu Xueqian, during a meeting with a high-ranking official of the Japanese ruling Liberal Democratic Party, had said that Beijing wishes to restore normal relations with Hanoi so that Sino-Vietnamese relations will become both comradely and fraternal.

Dinh Nho Liem Views Relations With China

BK0405150590 Hanoi International Service in English 1000 GMT 4 May 90

["Excerpts" from article by First Vice Foreign Minister Dinh Nho Liem in April issue of INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS magazine on Vietnam-China relations]

[Text] The peoples of Vietnam and China have a fine and time-honored friendly relation. In the course of the struggle for national liberation, the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] and the Communist Party of China cooperated with each other and assisted each other in the fight against a common enemy to liberate the nation and wrestle back independence and freedom. The Chinese people supported and assisted the Vietnamese people in the struggle against French colonialism and for the building of socialism in northern Vietnam, as well as the struggle against U.S. imperialism for national salvation and for the liberation of southern Vietnam. During their own struggle, the Vietnamese supported and assisted the Chinese people in the course of building and defending socialism in China. Mutual support and assistance between the two parties, states, and peoples of Vietnam and China created a feeling of friendship among the two peoples.

Mr. Dinh Nho Liem noted that the abnormal situation in Sino-Vietnamese relations is only temporary, given the time-honored friendship between the two countries and peoples. He said: The resolution of the sixth congress of the CPV decided to turn a new historic page in the Sino-Vietnamese relations and pointed out that in the spirit of equality and guarantee of independence, sovereignty and mutual respect, Vietnam is ready to negotiate to solve problems relating to Sino-Vietnamese relations, normalize relations, and restore friendship between the two countries in the interests of the two peoples, peace in Southeast Asia and the rest of the world.

Mr. Dinh Nho Liem stressed that the two countries now have the same long-term goal, that is, to carry out reform and renovation to build socialism. Both countries need peace for national building and development. Problems that temporarily hampered the relations between the two countries, such as Cambodia, are being solved. The most important thing is that Vietnam has completely withdrawn all its troops from Cambodia. All the remaining problems between Vietnam and China can be negotiated step by step and be solved in the spirit of equality and respect for independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity and interests of each other. Mr. Dinh Nho Liem also emphasized that a new opportunity is being created for normalizing Sino-Vietnamese relations. This responds to the ardent desire and fundamental and long-term interests of the two peoples, and, at the same time, contributing to peace, stability, and cooperation in Asia and the Pacific and conforming to peace, independence, democracy, and socialism in the world.

Mr. Dinh Nho Liem recalled the positive steps taken by Vietnam in taking initiatives to open two rounds of talks at vice foreign ministerial level and contacts among the two countries' officials. He noted that due to differences over how to solve Cambodia's internal problems in the transitional period until general elections, Vietnam proposed that both sides should not allow the problems of the third country to hinder the process of normalizing Sino-Vietnamese relations. Although China has not yet responded to Vietnam's proposal, in fact, small steps have actually been taken to help normalize bilateral ties. Mr. Dinh Nho Liem also quoted Chinese leaders as saying that in any case normalizing relations should be beneficial to both sides.

In conclusion, Mr. Dinh Nho Liem stressed that Sino-Vietnamese friendship is an invaluable asset. Restoring and consolidating that traditional friendship and developing it not only meets the ardent desire of the two peoples but conforms to the long-term interests of both countries' future generations. He said that complications, obstacles, and difficulties lie ahead, but Vietnam believes that with the persistent effort and goodwill from both sides, relations between Vietnam and China will certainly be normalized and the traditional friendship between the two countries will be (?restored), and Vietnam is making efforts to achieve that goal.

Hanoi Cites PRC's Wu Xueqian on Relations

BK0605131890 Hanoi International Service in English 1000 GMT 6 May 90

[Text] Chinese Vice Premier Wu Xueqian said China wants to restore the Sino-Vietnamese relations. In his talk with Mr. Watanabe, member of the Japanese Liberal Democratic Party, in Beijing, Mr. Wu Xueqian also recalled President Ho Chi Minh's statement that China and Vietnam are both brothers and comrades. Public opinion in Tokyo said that China wants to improve relations with Vietnam. Meanwhile, in Bangkok, Japanese Defense Minister [title as heard] Ishikawa called on the world community not to isolate Vietnam.

Army Chief of Staff Visits Spratly Islands

BK0605074490 Hong Kong AFP in English 0731 GMT 6 May 90

[Text] Hanoi, May 6 (AFP)—General Doan Khue, chief of staff of the Vietnamese Army, visited the strategic Spratly Island chain whose sovereignty is disputed by Vietnam and China, the army daily QUAN DOI NHAN DAN reported Sunday [6 May]. Accompanied by two deputy defense ministers, Generals Dao Dinh Luyen and Nguyen Trong Xuyen, the chief of staff "visited the population and inspected units deployed on the islands in the south of the archipelago," the newspaper said. It also said another army official, General Dang Vu Hiep, assistant director of the Army's Political Department, visited islands in the north of the chain. It was Gen. Khue's second visit to the Spratly Islands since April 1989.

The Spratly Islands are about 400 kilometers (250 miles) southeast of Vietnam, which controls a majority of the islands. They were the scene of a bloody naval battle in March 1988 between China and Vietnam in which three Vietnamese were reported killed and 70 missing. China did not establish a presence in the area until the beginning of 1988. It currently occupies seven islands.

NHAN DAN on U.S. Vietnam War 'Syndrome'

BK0405134590 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 29 Apr 90

[NHAN DAN 28 April article by Nguyen Ngoc Truong: "The War That Still Divides the United States"]

[Text] On one weekend morning this March, I was at a public square in central Washington. The ground was wet from melting snow. Under the drizzle, old and young Americans, bare-headed or carrying umbrellas, were nudging one another in front of the Vietnam War Memorial, with large stone walls on which are carved the names of American soldiers KIA or MIA during the Vietnam War. They were searching for, pointing to, and telling one another the names of their relatives or acquaintances on the walls.

The Vietnam War Memorial was erected at a stately location in the U.S. capital, where the monuments to Washington and Jefferson—U.S. nation builders and important members of the more than 200 years of U.S. history—were built.

The Vietnam War has become part of this country's history. At this monument area, there always seem to be large crowds of people. Although the Vietnam War is part of past U.S. history, large numbers of Americans still consider it a current story. The Vietnam syndrome has not ended. In his inaugural speech on 20 January 1989, President Bush specially mentioned this point: War is still dividing us although, dear friends, it started exactly a quarter of a century ago; its adverse impact has lasted for too long.

Facts have shown that the final lesson drawn from the Vietnam War is that no great nation can let itself be divided for too long by a memory. During a meeting at the U.S. Congress, an assistant to a U.S. senator told me: Only the politicians in Washington are interested in the Cambodia issue. As for the people in my state, they only pay attention to those outstanding problems of the Vietnam War.

In recent years, though not clamorously, Vietnam again has appeared in newspapers and in special U.S. television programs. Americans in their 40's or so who were linked to the Vietnam War period are those who have been carefully watching films with Vietnam War themes. When I was watching a new film Born on the Fourth of July, I saw a middle-aged American—who had left for Canada during the Vietnam War period to avoid being sent to fight in Vietnam—cry over the fate of those persons in the film. However, people of the new generations in the United States have little or very inadequate knowledge of this war.

A public opinion poll conducted by the Peter Hart organization, among people aged 18-24 who are attending or have finished college, asked the following question: Of four causes, which was the main one leading to the U.S. defeat in the Vietnam War? Some 31 percent held that the United States had failed to make enough military effort; 23 percent thought that the antiwar movement had caused a lack of support in the United States; 21 percent said that there had not been enough support from the U.S. allies' military and civil detachments to South Vietnam; 16 percent ignored the causes; and nine percent attributed it to the strength of communist opponents.

Even though people have attributed the U.S. defeat in Vietnam to different causes, they all reflect that viewpoints held among American political circles and scholars about this war are usually very contradictory. Many clear-headed Americans have realized that the U.S. defeat was due to inadequate knowledge about Vietnam and incorrect assessment of the adversary. On this basis they dealt with the issue objectively, saying that in order to draw correct lessons from the Vietnam War it would be necessary to know more about the history and people of Vietnam. Many Vietnam experts were recently invited to sponsor various programs of lecturing on Vietnam and Indochina in the largest U.S. universities. (?Cornell) University, one of the three largest U.S. universities, has increased its curricula on Indochina and Southeast Asia.

With the passage of time, the American people have viewed the Vietnam War more calmly. In 1969, when the United States was bogged down in Vietnam and the antiwar movement was developing vigorously, a Gallup poll in the United States posed this question: In view of the events since we engaged in combat in Vietnam, do you think we have made a mistake in sending troops to fight in Vietnam? Fifty-two percent of those asked said it was a mistake; 39 percent said it was not a mistake; and 9 percent had no comment.

Twenty years later, during a survey conducted by the (Martinkelly) organization and the Institute for Market Opinion Research in the four most populous U.S. cities, when people were asked whether or not the United States was right in dispatching troops to fight in Vietnam, a much larger number of people held that it was a mistake to send troops to Vietnam: 63 percent in Boston, 61 percent in Detroit, 69 percent in New York, and 70 percent in San Francisco.

The process of taking another look at the Vietnam War has also taken place in cinematography. If bizarre and unrealistic scenes were seen in Rambo and The Deer Hunter films, in which U.S. soldiers were described as victims of a fugitive cruel enemy, in the film Born on the Fourth of July—considered typical of the Vietnam War theme—both U.S. soldiers and Vietnamese civilians become victims of a war staged by the U.S. Administration. The film depicts the 1950's credulity of ordinary Americans who believed in American statesmen's calls for protecting the free world in all regions of the world. Ron Kovic, the main character in the film, joins the Marines to seek fame, but encounters the painful realities of becoming a war invalid and then sees the truth. He is then seen leading the antiwar movement in the late 1960's. Though criticized by some circles in the United States, the film won several great prizes in cinematography and manifests a general trend in the United States toward taking another view of the Vietnam War in a realistic and more balanced direction.

The story about Ron Kovic is merely part of the real life story of Vietnam War veterans. The editor in chief of a paper of the U.S. Veterans Association told me that nine million Americans had been involved in the Vietnam War, including three million directly engaged in combat, 58,000 killed, and half a million wounded. Many of the war veterans are now well-known statesmen in the United States; seven are senators, and 15 are House representatives. I met some of these war veterans on Capitol Hill, the U.S. Congress' headquarters. They are mostly busy politicians. In an election year, they usually stay in their electoral area for four or five days each week to get in touch with voters and spend the other two days in the capital to participate in discussing and voting on federal issues, following heavy work schedules of 19-20 meetings daily.

A large number of war veterans are still fighting their own wars. They are struggling for recognition by their own country so they will not be forgotten. However, there are people who can never return to normal life in the United States. A few years ago, many of the homeless war veterans in the United States were wandering the streets in daytime and sleeping on stone benches in public parks at night. Now, sometimes, a middle-aged person wearing a ragtag Marine uniform can be seen standing at a street corner in Washington.

Some of the activists in the U.S. war veterans movement told me that most war veterans, especially those who were not directly involved in Vietnam battlefields, are antipathetic to Vietnam. However, those war veterans who have had a chance to return to Vietnam have all changed their attitude and become sympathetic to Vietnam after returning home. They are surprised to see that the Vietnamese people are not vindictive even though they know the Americans once fought in Vietnam. Thousands of war veterans have thus far returned to Vietnam, and most of those who were engaged in direct combat in Vietnam wish to have a chance to return to the former battlefields. Many of them after returning home have worked for normalization of relations between the United States and Vietnam and have considered it a necessary measure to heal the wounds of war in the very heart of the United States.

Army Journal on Lessons of War Against U.S.

BK0505141590 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2330 GMT 30 Apr 90

[TAP CHI QUOC PHONG TOAN DAN April editorial: "The Great Victory of the Anti-U.S. Resistance Struggle for National Salvation and Some Lessons for National Construction and Defense"]

[Text] The national liberation war had its own law. The peaceful construction and defense of the country also has its own rules. Yet, the fighting against imperialists and feudalists as well as the struggle to overcome backwardness and poverty possesses a common law—the law of revolutionary movement. As a result, common lessons can be derived from them as the lessons of revolutionary leadership. The major lessons derived from the anti-U.S. resistance were the lessons on how to mobilize and organize all the people to save the country and master their own destiny under the correct leadership of the party, and how to establish the blood-sealed relationship between the heroic nation and the vanguard party.

The heroic Vietnamese people always remain heroic, but the country might have been now prosperous, now declining. That depends on whether or not the nation's political leaders have adopted correct lines to lead the people. Correct lines are nothing else than those that manifest the fundamental and long-term aspirations of the people and conform to the developmental trend of history, involving specific guidelines and policies that meet the pressing and vital demands of the people of all strata during the various developmental stages of the revolution.

The party cannot work in the people's place. It cannot issue orders to the people. If the people did not rise up to save their country and families, there could not be the sacred anti-U.S. people's war for national salvation. This war could have reached the peak along the correct revolutionary line of upholding the party's national independence banner and socialism through the various correct resolutions such as Resolution 15 of the second party Central Committee, which fanned up the flame of general uprising throughout the southern part, or Resolution 21 of the third party Central Committee, which stirred up the high tide of offensive and upheaval to victoriously end the sacred resistance. We should also mention the correct positions and policies in the socialist revolution in the north which step by step mobilized the potentials of socialism in the north to support the national liberation struggle in the south and to defend socialism in the north.

Although it is right that now we must reconsider some former problems of socialism in the north in the spirit of renovation, we cannot refute the superiority of socialism at that time. It was manifested in the role of the great northern rear in discharging its duty toward the great southern frontline, in the strength of the people's war against the war of destruction, and even in the building of a new life in wartime in the north. Could this also be a socialist model of Vietnam in wartime which had brought into play its effect because on the one hand it had met the requirements of the law of war, and on the other it had secured the required condition that was the great international aid?

The Vietnamese people are not only heroic but also very intelligent. Their intelligence is manifested by the superior mind of a minority that is the supreme advisory staff of the revolution, the party Central Committee and the Political Bureau. The superior mind of the vanguard party is the crystallized rich mind of the entire nation.

The strategic problems of the revolution and revolutionary war were resolved correctly on a large scale. The tactical problems of the people's war were creatively resolved on a small scale right on the battlefields, in factories, and on ricefields by combatants, workers, and revolutionary intellectuals. The war of U.S. aggression, which was further called the war of technology and the war of industry, was actually a barbarous prehistoric terror using nearly all the latest innovations of a modern civilization and of almost all the smartest brains of the United States. The military force could not defeat that cruel civilization. That victory had to be the victory of intelligence, revolutionary science, and military science of the Vietnamese Revolution.

Our party could lead our entire nation into a combat for survival. Each Vietnamese citizen had volunteered to suffer losses and sacrifices for independence and freedom. How can our party not lead the entire Vietnamese nation now in the struggle against backwardness and poverty and make every citizen volunteer again to withstand sacrifices and hardships, but this time, mainly for the prosperity and power of the country and for the life of plenty and happiness of each person and each family? The important point is that the party must adopt correct lines, positions, and policies that truthfully reflect the immediate and long-term interests of all strata of people and the entire nation, ensuring that all citizens stand up to master their own destiny and to benefit their families by being useful to their country.

The party can neither work in the people's place nor issue orders to the people under the motive of being nice to the people or being subjective and voluntaristic. Party members must exemplarily volunteer to take the lead on all frontlines of the new struggle just like they did on all battlefields. The party and our people have chosen socialism, aiming at nothing else than independence, freedom, and happiness of the people—of the majority of the laboring people and not the minority of the wealthy people. The party's renovation line set forth at the sixth party congress and its platform currently underway are mainly aimed at this goal. The very encouraging initial victories have been asserted. The injuries in the blood-sealed relationship between the party and the people have been gradually healed.

The victory in the anti-U.S. resistance revealed the great intelligence of the Vietnamese nation and its ability to grasp and apply the latest innovations of modern world civilization to the conditions and situation in Vietnam. How can the party not muster, mobilize, and exploit that rich intelligence among workers, peasants, and socialist intellectuals for the sake of prosperity of the country and each family?

The revolution is creativity. The creative force of the Vietnamese Revolution has been affirmed by the general August uprising in 1945 and the anti-U.S. and anti-French resistance struggles. The Vietnamese nation under the party leadership is determined to search for, experiment, and discover the creative and unique socialist path of Vietnam and in Vietnam. This way, the revolution becomes a true festival of the masses.

Evidently, the strength of the Vietnamese nation alone could not bring about the great victory in the resistance. The national strength had to be combined with the strength of the era. The Vietnamese people, who earnestly cherish the independence and freedom of their country, also treasure the independence and freedom of other nations. The Vietnamese people do not have a xenophobic mind, but the enemies themselves want to isolate us.

The Communist Party of Vietnam's revolutionary line is imbued with warm patriotism and genuine proletarian internationalism. This had enabled our anti-U.S. resistance struggle to secure great assistance from the Soviet Union, China, and other socialist countries, and the sympathy and support of all progressive mankind, including the American people's support, to the point that Western commentators had to exaggeratedly say that the Vietnamese communists had defeated the United States in Washington and not on Saigon streets.

The Vietnamese nation has also fulfilled its noble international duties toward the peoples of Laos and Cambodia and the peoples of all nationalities in the world. The victory of the world revolutionary movement encouraged and breathed life into Vietnam's sacred resistance struggle.

In today's national construction and defense, combining national strength with the strength of the era is also an objective necessity and a law to secure victory, because the trend to internationalize the world economy is developing each day. The world is becoming an increasingly perfect indivisible body in which all nations—either big or small and either developed or backward—depend on one another very closely. As a result, all nations must cooperate with one another actively to develop quickly and to create more conditions for consolidating peace and accelerating national construction in peace. Just like other nations, our Vietnamese nation should actively participate in international life and international labor division on the basis of bringing into full play its own strength in order to defeat all enemy plots to envelop and isolate us. We must make full use of the latest achievements of the world in the economic, technological, cultural, and social domains to quickly extricate the country from backwardness and poverty, create great potentials for national construction and defense, and enable our nation to catch up with advanced countries in the world.

Today, our people not only should intensify the fraternal and friendly relations with socialist and Third World countries but also should necessarily expand the relations of mutual benefit with all other countries in line with the trend of struggle and cooperation in peaceful coexistence. The relations with socialist countries can no longer be the same as before but must conform with the new thinking to reflect the process of renovation, reorganization, and reform taking place in our country and those countries as well. Independence, sovereignty, and self-sufficiency and self-support are always decisive factors in fully exploiting new favorable conditions as well as in coping with new challenges of the era.

Evidently, in the international relations, faced with the plots of hostile forces, it is necessary to uphold vigilance; and the need to calculate the cost of development is inevitable. Particularly, at present, imperialism is striving to take advantage of renovation in our country to oppose and sabotage us, to eliminate our people's socialist gains, and to drive the revolution of our country into the capitalist orbit, mainly through peaceful evolution combined with military deterrence. As a result, we must always combine national construction closely with national defense. The determination of our national defense expenditures does not depend on our subjective good desire but mainly on the wicked enemy plots. As a result, adjustments must be made in line with the possible developments of the situation in the direction of our struggle against the enemy. What did the gunfire of U.S. aggression in Panama remind our people and the peoples of all nationalities in the world?

Fuller Version of Vo Chi Cong Liberation Speech

BK0405122390 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 1 May 90

["Excerpt" from Council of State Chairman Vo Chi Cong's speech at meeting to mark 15th anniversary of liberation of South Vietnam and International Labor Day in Hanoi on 30 April—read by announcer]

[Text] The general offensives and uprisings in the early spring of 1975 mark a very beautiful ending to our people's struggle for national independence. Our armed forces and people have fully implemented venerated and beloved President Ho Chi Minh's teaching that nothing is more precious than independence and freedom. Months and years will pass, yet our people's victory in the anti-U.S. national salvation struggle will forever go down in our nation's history as a most shining page and a bright symbol of the triumph of revolutionary heroism and of man's intellect. This victory will also go down in world history as one of the greatest feats of the twentieth century and an event of tremendous importance that has profound bearings on our time.

The great victory of our people's anti-U.S.national salvation struggle is the victory of the creative, correct, and independent political and military lines of our party—a genuine Marxist-Leninist party founded and tempered by President Ho Chi Minh. It is the victory of the spirit of self-sufficiency and self-help as well as of resourcefulness, unmatched combat bravery, endurance, optimism, and revolutionary heroism that tens of millions of our beloved compatriots and combatants in the south—the fatherland's brass fortress—have displayed in several decades of struggle against foreign aggression. Our compatriots and comrades will never forget the extremely important role that the north—the great rear base—played by providing the kith-and-kin south—the great frontline—with manpower and material resources so it could carry out its hard struggle against the enemy. It is the victory of socialism, which serves as a source of great material and spiritual strength for our people. The socialist revolution in the north has played a most decisive role in the overall process of our nation's revolution and reunification.

The great victory of our people's anti-U.S. national salvation struggle also marks the success of the special relationship and the strategic alliance of the Vietnamese, Lao, and Cambodian peoples. It is the victory of the correct international policies of our party and of the wholehearted assistance of the Soviet Union and other fraternal socialist countries, as well as of friends in every part of the world.

On today's happy occasion we turn our thoughts to the memory of venerated and beloved President Ho Chi Minh—our national liberation hero, a great man of culture, and a staunch communist of the working class and of the world communist movement, who dedicated his life to his country and people. We also turn our thoughts to the memory of countless heroes, heroines, compatriots, and comrades who sacrificed themselves for national independence and freedom. Glory will belong forever to those combatants, compatriots, and comrades who sacrificed themselves for our beloved Vietnamese fatherland. The historic victory on 30 April must be credited to each and every one of them. We sincerely thank the Soviet Union, Laos, Cambodia, and other socialist countries as well as the workers movement, national liberation movement, and world movement for peace and democracy for their great material and spiritual assistance and support for us.

After the victory on 30 April 1975, our people regained power throughout the country. The Vietnamese fatherland was reunified and started advancing toward socialism. The International Labor Day, 1 May, has become a festival for our laboring people throughout the country. In the new stage of the revolutionary struggle to build and defend the socialist fatherland, our people have undergone once again countless difficulties due to enemy-caused and natural disasters and socioeconomic problems. Our people's revolutionary cause, national independence, and socialist construction had to face a new challenge. Our people again defeated the wars of aggression along the northern and southwestern borders of our country and fulfilled our glorious internationalist duty toward the fraternal peoples of Laos and Cambodia.

At the same time, we had to overcome the challenges posed by the general, serious crisis of socialism. This crisis originated from errors and mistakes during the process of socialist construction. These errors and mistakes, far from being corrected in time, have accumulated and caused stagnation and weakened the forces of socialism. This crisis also originated from errors in viewpoints, methods, and steps taken during the process of restructuring and reform, which have caused instability in quite a few socialist countries. This crisis has been further aggravated by the slanderous information and sabotage of the reactionary and opportunistic forces at home and abroad.

In the spirit of the 30 April victory and international Labor Day, our worker class and laboring people must enhance vigilance and close their ranks around the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV]—the only leading party for our revolution—to advance our revolution through the current obstacles. Implementing the Sixth CPV Congress resolution over the past three years, our party and state have set forth positions and policies on renovation, on improving the economic structure, developing the multicomponent commodity-based economy, renovating the economic management mechanism, eliminating subsidization and shifting to the socialist business accounting system, and expanding foreign economic relations.

We have scored initial achievements, which are very important because they have effected new, positive changes and have won the people's confidence. These achievements also show that our renovation cause and path are correct thanks to our party's consistent adherence to the scientific-revolutionary character of Marxism-Leninism as well as the basic principles of the path toward socialism. These are also the results of our party's efforts in upholding national independence and sovereignty, maintaining a correct concept, and applying appropriate methods in its leadership and guidance in conformity with the realities in Vietnam. These achievements are also the efforts of our workers, peasants, intelligentsia, armed forces, and all people's strata who have enhanced the fine tradition of the Vietnamese people's patriotism, revolutionary enthusiasm, diligence, creativity, unity, and the spirit of pure internationalism.

However, our nation has not overcome the current socioeconomic crisis. any state-run enterprises and small industrial and handicraft cooperatives have faced difficulties in their production and business. They have not met demands required by the new mechanism. The number of unemployed is still large while the daily life of a segment of the people, cadres, workers, civil servants, students, army men, policemen, and retirees is experiencing numerous difficulties. Moreover, the people are concerned about measures to maintain social order and safety given the current trend of increasing social vices and so forth. These are pressing issues that have not been resolved.

During the past three years we have not totally overcome mistakes and shortcomings. In implementing the renovation cause, there will be more obstacles requiring us to be more alert and active to promptly overcome them. In light of the very complicated international situation, the struggle to protect and develop socialism is being carried out decisively in various nations. The imperialist and reactionary forces are attempting to exploit difficulties facing socialist countries to escalate their interference and sabotage activities. They are launching a new campaign to undermine the socialist and Third World nations to eliminate socialism and oppose the national independence movement. They have applied very dangerous economic, technological, political, ideological, and psychological measures to carry out their peaceful evolution while threatening to use military power if warranted. As a result, the current struggle between socialism and capitalism is a decisive, complicated, and protracted class struggle.

We are convinced that socialism will surely and gradually overcome all ordeals and difficulties while firmly and continuously advancing. The world people's struggle for peace, national independence, democracy, and social progress though facing immediate difficulties, will proceed further. No force can check its advancement; this is the law of history. We hope the peoples and parties of fraternal countries will be able to overcome the current ordeals and that these parties will soon restore the people's confidence and maintain their political vanguard role in society. The Vietnamese people unswervingly maintain their stance of expanding relations in all domains with fraternal nations, strengthening the socialist international solidarity, positively contributing to the renovation cause, and helping to enhance the efficacy of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance. We are always the reliable friends who will provide assistance and support to the world revolutionary movement for peace, national independence, democracy, and socialism.

Commemorating the 30 April victory and international Labor Day, our entire party, people, and armed forces must vigorously accelerate the renovation cause set forth by the Sixth CPV Congress resolution, consolidate and bring into full play all the scored achievements, resolutely overcome all shortcomings, and promptly resolve socioeconomic pressing issues raised by the party Central Committee eighth plenum.

Britain-SRV Meeting Denouces U.S. Embargo

BK0505080090 Hanoi VNA in English 0658 GMT 5 May 90

[Text] Hanoi VNA May 5—A 200-strong meeting was held in London on Tuesday [1 May] by the Britain-Vietnam Association in celebration of the 15th anniversary of the liberation of South Vietnam (April 30).

It was attended by Labour M.P. Chris Mullin, president of the association, Vietnamese ambassador to Britain Chau Phong, and representatives of various mass and humanitarian organizations in Britain.

Addressing the meeting, Prof. E.J. Shellard, representative of the sponsoring association, praised the Vietnamese people's struggle against the U.S. aggressors and condemned the present embargo policy applied by the United States and other Western countries against Vietnam. He also called upon the British people to further support the Vietnamese people in their national construction and economic development.

Further on Planned May Visits to West Europe

BK0605110290 Hanoi International Service in English 1000 GMT 6 May 90

[Text] According to a spokeswoman for the Vietnamese Foreign Ministry, Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach and Vice Chairman of the Council of Ministers Vo Van Kiet will visit several West European countries this month. Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach will visit the Federal Republic of Germany, Belgium, and Italy from May 9 to 19 to hold talks with his counterparts of these countries. Speaking at a press conference three days ago, Miss Ho The Lan, a spokeswoman of the Vietnamese Foreign Ministry said: Vice Chairman Vo Van Kiet will pay friendship visits to Sweden and Finland in mid-May.

Australian Foreign Ministry Delegation Visits

BK0405154490 Hanoi VNA in English 1456 GMT 4 May 90

[Text] Hanoi VNA May 4—A delegation of the Australian Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Commerce led by [words indistinct], head of the Department for Peace, Arms Control and Disarmament, visited Vietnam from April 29 to May 3 to discuss regional measures and efforts regarding non-proliferation of chemical weapons.

The delegation exchanged views with the Vietnamese Ministries for Foreign Affairs and National Defence in an atmosphere of comperation and mutual understanding.

While here, it was received by Dang Nghiem Bai, assistant to the foreign minister.